

AGAWAM Advertiser·News

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February 25, 1999

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MARY KELLER, who'll become the director of Enfield's recreation department on March 1st. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Mary Keller To Return To Her "Roots"...

Town Of Agawam Loses Park & Recreation Director To Enfield

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

Four years after becoming Agawam's first director of Parks and Recreation, Mary Keller is returning to her professional and personal roots.

On March 1st, Ms. Keller will return to her hometown of Enfield as the director of the recreation department where she began her professional career. The job, similar to her current post, brings both a pay hike and a larger staff to supervise.

"I'll have more staff and more programs in Enfield," Ms. Keller said. "It's going to be a challenge to take on something larger. But, there's also going to be a new recreation coordinator, so we'll both be new together and it will be nice to have that help."

Taking on a challenge in her hometown should be a walk in the park for Ms. Keller, who successfully overcame the initial opposition and outright hostility of some sports organizations and even, at times, some Town Councilors.

Mayor Christopher C. Johnson said he is hoping to attract a candidate with similar training and background to replace Ms. Keller so that the recreation program can continue to grow and modernize.

"Mary came to Agawam when the program was in need or reorganization. She had the task of modernizing and expanding the program and

she's done a fantastic job," Johnson said. "We're going to miss her."

Considered an outsider in a town of insiders, Ms. Keller was faced with the daunting task of taking on a newly-created and controversial position. To make matters worse, she was taking over the reins of the recreation department upon the retirement of the well-liked, long-term building maintenance director, Jack Kunasek.

In the end, she won over her critics and succeeded with friends and foes alike, according to Town Councilor George Bitzas. "She took a lot of heat, but she's a caring person with an easy-going, quiet character and eventually she won over the people who had criticized her," Bitzas said.

Firm, Fair & Consistent

"When I came here, my main goal was to establish policies and organize hiring and staff training practices so that everything was done in the same manner," Ms. Keller said. "Every person and organization was treated the same. We were firm, fair, and consistent. That was the biggest challenge. And I think we met the challenge and went beyond what we hoped to accomplish."

SEE KELLER - Page 2...

Under Agricultural Program...

2 Farmers Seek To Double Acreage Protected From Residential Dev.

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

If two Feeding Hills farmers have their way, the amount of farmland in Agawam that has been permanently preserved from development will more than double to 370 acres.

Noel E. Brown is asking the state Department of Food and Agriculture (DFA) to include his 100 acres of farmland in the Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) program, while his neighbor, Merwyn Farnsworth, is seeking the same status for the abutting 87 acres. Both properties are located on North West Street and both are farmed by Noel Brown and his son, Mark, as Provin Mountain Farm.

The APR program was launched in December of 1977. It allows farmers to sell the development rights to their property to the state, resulting in the farmland being permanently protected. The program has been highly competitive since its inception and Agawam has been fortunate to have seven APR's (totaling 183 acres) funded by the state, according to Planning Director Deborah S. Dachos.

"Applying for the APR could be the means to an end in order to acquire farmland we're currently renting and cultivating," Brown said. "We're try-

ing to cooperate with people to preserve open space. I'd like to see the farmland remain and we'd like to stay in business if we can."

The business has been in the Brown family since the turn of the century. Noel Brown has lived and worked on the farm (considered by many as a synonym for Feeding Hills farming, especially during strawberry season) all his life, and the last thing he wants to see is a subdivision on the flats or houses dotting the sides of Provin Mountain.

He's not even sure how many housing lots his land could be carved into. "I never bothered to find out," Brown said. "I don't know how many, but I'm sure it would be a lot. I haven't really been pursued by developers because word got around that 'Old Man Brown' doesn't want builders going out there."

Town Council To Vote On A Resolution...

On Monday night, March 1st, Town Council will vote on a resolution supporting Farnsworth and Brown because their land is a valuable asset to

SEE FARMLAND - Page 2...

Census Workers...



TOWN CLERK RICHARD THEROUX and his helpers, Dorothea Nardi (left) and Priscilla Peterson (right), open the over 14,000 town census returns. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

KELLER - from Page 1...

In addition to expanding the program base and tripling the number of participants in town recreation programs, Ms. Keller took on the youth and instructional basketball league formerly under the auspices of a private sports organization, the youth swim team, and the over-30 basketball league. The Perry Lane Nursery School is also under the umbrella of the recreation department.

During her tenure, the town's summer camp program at Perry Lane Park was reorganized to accommodate the special needs youngsters who had been attending a separate camp program held at Robinson Park School.

"We had to make the camp equal and accessible to everyone," Ms. Keller said. "We make every accommodation possible so that we are not in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act."

Quick to give credit to her staff, Ms. Keller said, "(administrative assistant) Nancy Pryce has been 100 percent behind the changes and (director) Gina Frasco has done a tremendous job with the nursery school."

Among her proudest accomplishments, Ms. Keller counts educating people to understand that recreation is not just about sports and creating a more professional atmosphere throughout the Recreation Department.

"It took a long time, but we have a cooperative effort between the town and the sports organizations," Ms. Keller said. "The town realizes there is a need for recreation and expansion for everyone and that we really do have the best interest of everyone in town at heart."

With so many positive aspects of her four years in Agawam to look back on, Ms. Keller said, "It's going to be hard to say good-bye. I've developed many good working relationships and my staff has been incredible. It's the best staff I've ever worked with."

Before coming to Agawam, Ms. Keller was a recreation supervisor in the Connecticut towns of Enfield and Simsbury for one and five years, respectively.

Johnson expects the search process for a new recreation director to take about six to eight weeks. "We probably won't have a replacement until April, and that's an optimistic date," Johnson said.

ADVERTISER NEWS

FARMLAND - from Page 1...

the town and represents one of the largest active farms in the community. The farms provide fresh produce throughout the growing season as well as seasonal employment for many young people while preserving open space. Also, the farms are located in an area of town identified as having the highest potential for prehistoric archaeological treasures.

The APR process is lengthy and requires both the farmers and the town to participate in the process. It can take up to two years before a farmer receives the money. Once the application is made by the farmer, the town must submit paperwork to the state that has been approved by the Conservation Commission and presented to the town's elected officials. The DFA field checks the farm and an appraisal of the farm is conducted before the decision on purchasing the development rights is made.

Generally, towns are expected to make a financial contribution of matching funds, thereby becoming a co-holder of the restriction with the Commonwealth.

In 1983, Town Council appropriated \$10,000 to serve as the town's contribution toward APR applications, but the money has already been spent on the seven existing APR's granted in Agawam, Ms. Dachos said.

The APR applications for the Farnsworth and Brown properties have received the support of the Conservation Commission, the Planning Board, Ms. Dachos, and Mayor Christopher C. Johnson.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF AGAWAM
BOARD OF APPEALS

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeals will conduct a public hearing at the Agawam Middle School Auditorium, 68 Main St., Agawam, MA on THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 1999 at 6:30 P.M., for all parties interested in the appeal of STRATUM LIMITED PARTNERSHIP, which is seeking to alter a previous Board of Appeals Decision, Case No. 1370, dated 4/17/92, which would allow for the commercial use of a structure in a Residential A-2 district, at the premises identified as: 146 SUFFIELD STREET.

Doreen Prouty
Acting Chairperson

Published: February 25, 1999

Johnson said the council resolution does not commit the town to provide a portion of matching funds if the APR's are granted. Johnson said it will be some time before the town learns how much, if any, matching funds the state will require Agawam to contribute.

"It will be a worthwhile investment and the town will benefit from the preservation of the farmland," Johnson said. "Philosophically, I'm committed to making the matching funds available, providing the state gives us a reasonable figure."

Key To The Economic Stability Of Agawam...

According to Ms. Dachos, preserving farmland is key to the economic stability of Agawam, as demonstrated by a 1990 report conducted by the American Farmland Trust. The study compared the income in taxes to the town to the expense of providing services to residential, commercial, industrial, farmland, and open space uses.

A ratio was used to show how much each land use cost the town for every dollar generated in a given year. The study found non-residential uses subsidize the cost of providing services to the residential sector.

The study showed that in 1990, farmland and open space made a net contribution of more than a quarter of a million dollars which was then available to offset a shortfall of nearly \$1.5 million from the residential sector, Ms. Dachos said.

"When the state makes their decision and tells us the percentage of the town's contribution, we'll go to the Town Council for the funds," Ms. Dachos said.

Keenan Has Info
On Medicare Changes

Senior citizens confused about Medicare HMO drug benefit changes can contact State Representative Daniel F. Keenan's office to obtain a pamphlet outlining the different financial assistance programs offered by health plans.

To obtain a pamphlet, Rep. Keenan can be contacted at (413) 786-4545.

The basic pharmacy benefit structure and the one-year transitional programs vary somewhat from plan to plan. Plans highlighted on the pamphlet are: Tufts, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, Fallon, and Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

SCOTT M. HIBBERT

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Letters To The Editor

Agawam Veterans' Council Thanks Berkshire Power

To The Editor:

The Agawam Veterans' Council and Honor Roll Committee members wish to express our sincere "thank you" to Berkshire Power of Moylan Lane for their generous donation of \$1,000 toward the Agawam Honor Roll Project.

Their donation gives us a grand total of \$21,913.53. The local response has been heartening. When finished, the Honor Roll will list Agawam veterans who served in the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, World War I, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

Perisan Gulf War veterans and Agawam veterans with expeditionary medals for service in other war situations will be added at a later date. It's an exciting project and will be a piece of Agawam history for future generations.

If you would like to help, please make checks payable to Agawam Honor Roll and mail to Veterans' Services, Town Hall, 36 Main St., Agawam, MA 01001.

Sincerely,
Ruth C. Bitzas
Veterans' Agent

Annual Agawam Picnic In Florida Slated For March 3rd

To The Editor: Dear Friends:

Don't forget our 18th Annual Agawam Picnic to be held on March 3, 1999 at Fred Howard Park in Tarpon Springs at Shelter 9. (NOTICE CHANGE OF SHELTER.)

Please bring your lunch, beverage, and chairs. We welcome new friends and love to see old friends. And, of course, donations for our door prize table are more than welcome.

See you there!

Betty & Ken Grady
Evelyn Martel

Being A Councilor Should Be Considered A Privilege

To The Editor:

Only a short time ago, the Mayor, Town Council, and School Committee received increases in their salary and stipends. Now, it seems the council will re-examine the issue for a future raise.

Remember when councilors worked for a few hundred dollars a year? Remember when they worked on the public's behalf for the love of the town?

Councilors, your public service should be considered an honor and a privilege, not an extra paycheck. And, as we all know, greater pay does not necessarily guarantee a better quality of candidate or councilor.

Spend more time scrutinizing the budget and making sure our tax dollars are well spent — that's where your time and energies are needed!

Sincerely,
Ernestine M. Book
Agawam

LEGAL NOTICE

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TOWN OF AGAWAM BOARD OF APPEALS

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeals will conduct a public hearing at the Agawam Middle School Auditorium, 68 Main St., Agawam, MA on THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 1999 at 6:45 P.M., for all parties interested in the appeal of GARY ARNOLD & LINDA LEWIS/SHIBLEY, who are seeking relief (Varance) from Section 180-41 of the Zoning Ordinances, which would allow for the construction of a single family residence with less than the required frontage, at the premises identified as LOT NO. 18, SOUTH WEST STREET. Doreen Prouty Acting Chairperson

Published: February 25, 1999

Best local news...

Minimum Salary Threshold Will Result In Service Cuts

To The Editor:

Make no mistake—Department of Mental Health Commissioner Sudders' recently-issued directive to implement a minimum salary threshold of \$20,000 for direct-care workers effective July 1, 1999, WILL BE REALIZED BY SERIOUS CUTS IN SERVICES TO THE VERY PEOPLE THEY SERVE. THIS IS UNCONSCIONABLE!

Commissioner Sudders' letter, which appeared in the February 18th issue of the *Union News* states, "Quality is paramount and is what the initiative is all about." NONSENSE! Quality care cannot happen unless adequate financial resources are appropriated to enable adequate, humane services AND respectful wage earnings for the hard-working, direct-care workers themselves.

YES, a \$20,000 base salary is definitely deserved by these workers, but this must be accompanied by equitable salary increases for workers with years of agency experience. Both of these concerns—adequate, humane services and respectful wage earnings—will not occur unless the citizenry of Massachusetts loudly call upon this legislature and this administration to 'step up to the plate' and strike out the years of level funding directed to the Department of Mental Health.

MORE, NOT LESS, DMH funding is needed for case management, community outreach, and housing. Historically, the DMH budget has been seriously underfunded; its rate of growth has not even equalled the rated of inflation or population increase in most years.

The biologically-based brain disorders, commonly referred to as mental illness, deserve the same consideration as all other serious, chronic medical illnesses. Why the continuing discrimination? These are not character flaws, but real medical conditions which today can and do respond to medication and treatment. In fact, the treatment efficacy rate for schizophrenia is 60 percent and the bipolar disorders (manic depression) is 80 percent; while cardiovascular disease is 41 percent.

If common decency and compassion are not enough to motivate this state to respectfully care for this deserving, underserved, and marginalized population, perhaps a look at the real long-term \$\$\$ costs of untreated mental illness will.

Please call, write, or visit your local legislators, Governor Celucci, Lt. Governor Jane Swift, and demand that this ongoing discrimination of people with mental illness end now. Insist that they take another real hard look at the faces of the countless numbers of people in our state who are homeless, in jails, or who have taken the painful reality in their own hands and have become the tragic victims of suicide as a result of inadequate or absent medical treatment and services.

In these excellent economic times with a state budget surplus and an increased rainy-day fund, WE SHOULD HANG OUR HEADS IN SHAME THAT OUR CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS, AND ADULTS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS CONTINUE TO SUFFER DEGRADATION, ABUSE, AND SHAME WHILE WE CONTINUE TO LOOK THE OTHER WAY.

THIS INJUSTICE MUST END! We can do better—we must do better. The choice, after all, is ours. For in the end, HOW WE TREAT THE MOST VULNERABLE AMONG US IS THE REAL MEASURE OF OUR WORTH AND HOW WE WILL BE REMEMBERED.

Sincerely,
Janice D'Amours White
Board Member, NAMI of Western Mass.
Feeding Hills Resident



The Agawam Advertiser•News

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Veterans' Corner...

by Ruth C. Bitzas
Agawam Veterans' Agent
786-0400, Ext. 236/237

Bits Of News Dealing With VA Home Loans

The VA Loan Guaranty Division has also been undergoing some changes along with the VA Health Care Services. Further consolidations of Home Loan offices are currently taking place, and nine Regional Loan Centers are being established to consolidate all loan processing and loan servicing operations.

Our own Manchester, New Hampshire office will be one of the nine nationwide operations. In 1997, they processed 2,092 loans for Massachusetts veterans, and 1,359 loans for FY 98 to date.

Until recently, Veterans' Agents were mailed monthly lists of New England Consolidated Sales Listings. This booklet listed all available VA-acquired properties. These properties could be purchased "as is" at really great prices, such as a down payment of one percent of the cost of the property. The current interest rate on these acquired properties is 6.75 percent.

While we will no longer receive this information, YOU MAY ACCESS THIS INFORMATION VIA THE INTERNET AT:

<http://www.tiac.net/users/nhva/loans.htm>

States listed are Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, and Vermont.

This week, our list of Agawam Vietnam War veterans who served on active duty and will be included on our Honor Roll are those whose last names begin with the letters "N" and "O."

Remember, this is an Agawam Home of Record Honor Roll. Veterans need to have resided in Agawam at the time of entry into the military. If you know of someone who meets the above criteria, please have them or a member of their family contact our office.

WE NEED YOUR HELP to have the Honor Roll as accurate as possible.

AGAWAM VIETNAM VETERANS - "N" & "O"

Raymond E. Nacewicz, John R. Nahajlo, Ronald A. Najaka, Eugene A. Nannini, Howard R. Nardi, Norman J. Nardi, Raymond J. Nardi, Michael J. Natale, Edward F. Neary, Alexander D. Newman, Albert E. Nicholas, Jr., Douglas M. Nickerson, Peter R. Nissen, James F. Nolin, Robert A. Normand, Jr., Carl P. Novak, Edward J. Novak.

Alan P. Oberheim, Joseph E. O'Connor, Jr., Gerald F. O'Keefe, Thomas E. O'Keefe, Frank R. O'Leary, Donald E. O'Mara, James K. O'Malley, Russell Ortner, Wallace L. Osgood.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF AGAWAM AGAWAM TOWN COUNCIL

The Agawam Town Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 1, 1999 at the Agawam Middle School, 68 Main Street, Agawam, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the petition of ten registered voters for a proposed amendment to the Agawam Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 180, by adding a provision relative to delaying the demolition of historically significant buildings. A copy of the proposed zoning amendment can be obtained from the Agawam Planning Office or the Agawam Town Clerk's Office between the hours of 8:30 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. in the Agawam Town Hall, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA.

Ursula Retzler
Clerk of the Council

Published: February 25, 1999

At School Committee Meeting...

Superintendent Reports State Of The Schools Is "Extremely Strong"

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

Over the last three years, Agawam schools have taken giant steps toward becoming a premiere school district thanks to professional staff development, community pride in the schools, the support of the School Committee, and the moral and financial support of the Town Council and the Mayor, according to the superintendent of schools.

In his third annual state of the schools address at Tuesday night's School Committee meeting, School Superintendent Frank Ameruoso said the vision for the schools he first presented two years ago is "in place and the state of our schools is extremely strong."

Speaking for nearly 45 minutes, the superintendent gave a comprehensive overview of significant changes in facilities, finance, curriculum and instruction, instructional support team initiative, technology/computer science, professional development, and the intergenerational program initiative.

The \$20 million school expansion and renovation project at the four elementary schools and the High School was completed late in the fall. An open house weekend is planned at the five schools on Sunday, May 2nd, for the public to "marvel at the physical progress that has been made and to take pride in what your tax dollars have provided for the next generation of Agawam students," Ameruoso said.

As a result of the additions at the five buildings, each of the elementary schools has a library/media center; Phelps School has a larger cafeteria and kitchen facilities; the High School cafeteria has nearly doubled in size; and the High School has 18 new classrooms as well as a new front entrance and administrative offices. The added space has upgraded the buildings to state-of-the-art educational facilities and given the School Department the opportunity to hire additional staff in order to reduce class size, Ameruoso said.

In the area of finances, Ameruoso said the town has lived up to the funding levels mandated by the state well in advance of the deadline set by education reform. The budget for the current school year is just over \$22 million, representing the largest dollar increase in school spending in town history.

Over the last three years, \$1,049,709 was

budgeted for textbooks and workbooks, leading to the replacement of over 90 percent of the textbooks district-wide; \$1,312,751 in technology spending has brought the district from being "pathetically behind the technology curve" to a leader in instructional technology; and \$1,072,080 was spent on professional development for teachers and administrators to learn new ways of delivering the curriculum to the students, according to Ameruoso.

"Primary Sources Of Revenue..."

Ameruoso identified state and federal grants and the Mayor's capital improvement budget as "primary sources of revenue that are critical to our operation." Over the last three years, the state and federal grants have assisted with professional development, technology and textbooks, and supports an average of 10 teachers and four teaching assistants. The three-year total of capital improvement funds from the Mayor's budget is \$800,000.

In the area of technology and computer science, Ameruoso said it was no exaggeration to describe the district's progress as a "quantum leap" with the major efforts to date concentrated on the secondary level, covering grades seven through 12. Ameruoso promised to put the computer technology plans for the elementary schools in "high gear" with funding in next year's school budget.

"At the secondary level, it was imperative that we got something in place immediately so that our graduates would not be at a disadvantage," Ameruoso said.

At the High School, six new computer labs have been wired into the academic network, bringing the total to nine computer labs. The architectural drawing room has been upgraded with newer computers; the English Department has a computer writing lab; and the library has been outfitted with computers connected to the academic network.

All of the computers wired into the High School academic network currently have instant access to the Internet through a cable modem and proxy installed by Media One. The ultimate goal of the district technology plan is to provide Internet access through the local cable provider to every classroom in the system, Ameruoso said.

At the Junior High, one of the two computer keyboarding classrooms has been outfitted with 20 Pentium computers, and the second room is slated for an upgrade next year. At both the Middle School and the Junior High, 18 newer Pentium computers have been installed in the computer science room and the library in replacement of computers that have been installed in academic classrooms.

At the elementary schools, the library/media centers have been equipped with 12 computers and wired for networking and Internet access.

"One of our major goals is to eventually have computers in every classroom in the school system," Ameruoso said. "Our continued focus will be on implementing and upgrading our current computer systems and peripheral devices."

Implementation Of Instructional Support Teams...
Ameruoso said the district is a heartbeat away from the full implementation of instructional support teams at the elementary schools to prevent and reduce Special Education placement and to identify regular education students who are beginning to show academic or behavioral difficulties for early intervention.

With \$20,000 in state grant funding, Agawam is running a pilot program this year that Ameruoso believes will put the school district in the forefront in developing innovative options to prevent and reduce Special Education placements. In June, the School Department will provide the state with documentation that will serve as a manual for other school districts, according to him.

"We fully expect that this program will help us achieve two objectives," Ameruoso said. "First, reduce the number of new Special Education placements. Second, provide an academic and behavioral life-saving mechanism for students who otherwise would not have any alternatives."

Recapping the success of the intergenerational initiative in bringing High School students and senior citizens together through World War II thematic programs at the High School, Ameruoso said the School Department is exploring different ways to continue to strengthen a bond between the generations. The possibility of having AHS students teach a computer training course for senior citizens is under consideration.

Our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon...

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Melconian To Be Guest Speaker At Democratic Committee Meeting

The Agawam Democratic Committee is pleased to announce that its guest speaker for the **Wednesday, March 3rd**, meeting will be the new Majority Leader of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; the first woman elected to a full term in this capacity in the long history of the Commonwealth; and one of the highest-ranking members of state government — Agawam's own State Senator, Linda J. Melconian.

Senate Majority Leader Melconian will be speaking about the issues facing the Senate of the Commonwealth this year, 1999. The Committee invites and urges all Agawam citizens to attend this meeting.

The Agawam Democratic Committee's regular meeting will be held on **Wednesday, March 3rd, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.** in the Faolin Peirce Community Room, Agawam Police Station, 681 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills.

At the conclusion of regular business, Senate Majority Leader Melconian will begin her presentation to all that attend.

Again, attendance is open to the general public, and all citizens are invited and urged to attend to hear our State Senator and Majority Leader of the Senate.

On February 3rd, the Agawam Democratic Committee held its monthly meeting at 6:30 p.m. to accommodate the guest speaker, Attorney Marie Mazza, Hampden County Clerk of Courts.

Several issues were addressed during this brief meeting, including the formation of a committee to determine the feasibility of sponsoring a petition drive to elect a Charter Review Commission to address the needs to restructure Agawam's city government. The intention of making this potential Charter Review Commission would be to make Agawam government more responsive to the constituency and more efficient in its operation.

At the end of regular business, the Committee was honored with a presentation by Attorney Marie Mazza, Clerk of Courts. Attorney Mazza offered an insightful presentation into some of the difficulties facing the Clerk of Court's office and the Superior Court in Hampden County.

CORRECTION...

It was incorrectly reported in the Feb. 18th issue that the Conservation Commission had issued an Order of Conditions for work underway at Riverside Park. The Commission issued an Enforcement Order. There will be a Public Hearing on a Notice of Intent filed by Riverside Park tonight, Thursday, Feb. 25th at 7:15 p.m. in the Faolin Peirce Community Room. The Commission is expected to vote on an Order of Conditions at the conclusion of the Public Hearing.

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For the best in local goods and services, be sure to check our classified ads each and every week... **AAN!!!**

Local Historians Seek Six-Month Stay Of Execution...

Homeowner Opposes Demolition Delay For Historic Buildings

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

At a public hearing before the Planning Board last week, local historians said they want to see a six-month stay of execution before developers are allowed to demolish historically significant buildings in order to give the owners and the town enough time to find a buyer willing to preserve and rehabilitate the property.

And town planners learned that a current survey of public opinion found overwhelming support for preserving historic buildings.

But, the owners of historic buildings don't necessarily see eye-to-eye with the Historical Commission members who argued in favor of a proposed ordinance currently under scrutiny by the Planning Board and the Town Council.

Historical Commission Chairman David Cecchi presented the Planning Board with a dozen photographs of businesses currently housed in historic buildings in town, as well as photos of historic buildings converted to business uses in Maine, Southwick, and Westfield.

"We're proposing a demolition delay of up to six months while the town tries to find a suitable use for historic buildings," Cecchi said. "We're just trying to show businesses there is a use for historic buildings. This is not a hindrance."

Patterned On Easthampton By-Law

The proposed ordinance is patterned on an Easthampton by-law that has been used half-a-dozen times since the town became one of 60 communities in the state to adopt demolition delay procedures for historic properties.

To date, Easthampton has not been able to find an alternate use for the historic buildings under review, but the town has benefitted in that the buildings did not merely disappear overnight, Cecchi said.

Director of Planning and Community Development Deborah S. Dachos said the town has been losing an average of one historic structure each year since a 1985 survey identified 250 historically significant buildings in the Agawam Inventory of Historic Structures and that a survey of town residents being conducted by her office indicates an overwhelming majority of respondents say historic preservation would be an important goal.

"This ordinance is a great step," Ms. Dachos said. "It's necessary because right now I've only got two weeks to run around and try to find someone to move or use a historic structure before a demolition permit is issued. That's impossible."

Marjorie Greenough sees the issue from another side. Mrs. Greenough lives on Silver Street in a historic home situated on a piece of land that was originally granted to her ancestors (the Bodurtha family in 1641). She is opposed to the demolition delay on several grounds.

Interfere With Landowners' Rights

Mrs. Greenough said the ordinance would interfere with the rights of landowners, expose them to possible financial hardship, and provide no protection that the first owners would not suffer a financial loss in the event the property was subsequently razed and developed for another purpose by the buyer at a large profit.

"Will Agawam cover the owners' expenses during the six-month wait?" Mrs. Greenough asked.

Planning Board member Edward Shibley, who lives in a house built in 1929, questioned the provision in the ordinance that triggers review for buildings that are 50 years-old. He suggested that language be added to the ordinance making it clear that the Historical Commission would assist the appropriate town officials in attempting to preserve historic buildings.

"It seems to me that 50 year-old structures may not warrant this kind of effort at preservation," Shibley said. "The rest of the ordinance would be a benefit to the town, but you may want to consider modifying the age (of the buildings) if you're going to get this to fly through the council."

Historical Commission member Richard Bellico said the commission's goal is to locate businesses in historic structures to preserve the architectural features that make historic buildings such tourist attractions in other communities.

"We shouldn't have to go on vacation to see historic buildings," Bellico said. "I don't want to live in a cookie-cutter community. These buildings are what makes the character of the town—not four walls and a sign."

The Planning Board continued the public hearing, postponing a vote on the ordinance, until its next meeting in order to give the Historical Commission time to review and possibly revise the proposal. After the close of the Planning Board's public hearing, Town Council will have 90 days to consider the zoning ordinance, which will need eight votes for enactment into law.

Under the terms of the proposed ordinance, the building inspector would be required to notify the Historical Commission upon receipt of an application for the demolition of a significant building. The commission will then have 14 days to determine if the building is listed in the Agawam Inventory of Historic Structures before a demolition permit could be issued.

The demolition of buildings determined to be historically significant could be delayed for six months unless the commission is satisfied that there is no reasonable likelihood of finding someone willing to purchase and preserve the property, or the commission is convinced the owner has made a good faith effort to find a buyer willing to preserve the building without success.

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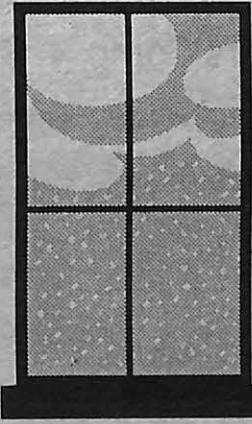
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Bitzas Restates His Position...

Town Councilor Opposes Legalized Gambling In The State

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

Five years ago, Agawam voters soundly rejected a proposal to bring casino gambling to town in a 3-1 referendum vote turning thumbs down on the notion. With the topic of legalizing casinos in the state once again under consideration by the governor and the state legislature, a leader in the fight against casino gambling is picking up the gauntlet in a renewed effort to block casino gambling statewide.

In 1994, Town Councilor George Bitzas was the first member of Town Council to come out in opposition to a casino in Agawam. Next Monday night, March 1st, Bitzas will ask Town Council to support a resolution opposing the legalization of casino gambling in the Commonwealth and urge local state legislators to join Town Council in opposing the legalization of casino gambling in Massachusetts.

"We have to be very alert now with the new interest in allowing casino gambling," Bitzas said. "If it starts in Boston, it will be a lot easier for casino gambling to spread to Worcester and to the Springfield area."

Bitzas maintains that the detriments of casino gambling, including compulsive gambling, lost business by local merchants, and increased crime associated with casino gambling, far outweigh any benefits that gambling might bring to the state.

He noted that the introduction of casino gambling will not bring new dollars into the local economy and would likely cause a redistribution of local spending on entertainment, resulting in the loss of revenue to local restaurants and entertainment businesses.

"Some special interest towns want a casino, but any benefit would be to the town hosting a casino and the surrounding towns would be affected in the worst way," Bitzas said.

Casinos attract people like a light attracts a moth; when they get too close, they get burned, leaving them unable to fly and enjoy life, Bitzas said.

"I'm concerned as a parent and as an elected official," Bitzas said. "I have three kids, all teenagers, and I don't want my kids or anybody else's kids introduced to that way of life."

Bitzas bases his opposition to gambling on the real-life stories of friends who have been hurt by gambling and reports of lives ruined and jobs lost by people caught up in compulsive gambling.

Agawam Businessman Agrees With Bitzas...

Agawam businessman Leonidas (Louie) Pananas, owner of the Parthenon Restaurant and an activist in the 1994 fight against casino gambling, is an early recruit in the Bitzas campaign against legalizing casino gambling.

"My opposition comes from personal experience," Pananas said. "I know a lot of people who have been hurt by casinos, and I have friends who committed suicide after losing at casinos. I almost got hurt myself. But, I woke up in time and put the brakes on when I realized I had a problem early enough to help myself."

Pananas discounts the myth that a casino will bring additional tourist revenue to a host community because people en route to a casino are not likely to stop and patronize local businesses when they can purchase just about anything they want in the way of goods and services at their destination.

"In the long run, we are all losers," Pananas said. "After gamblers lose their money at the casino, they postpone buying everything; for example, new tires for their cars. All merchants are losing when gamblers lose, and that spreads the expense to all of us when the economy gets bad."

Taking aim at the promise of a Gamblers Anonymous Hotline often held out by casino promoters, Pananas said the offer merely serves to prove the dangers posed by casino gambling. "This is just another gimmick. Gamblers do not admit they have a problem until they are up to their foreheads in debt and then it can be too late," Pananas said.

Bringing a casino closer to home simply creates new gamblers and gives them more opportunities to lose their money than if they had to travel to Atlantic City or to the casinos located in Connecticut, Pananas said.

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Agawam Town Council Meeting Agenda For Monday, March 1st

1. Citizen's Speak Time
2. Roll Call
3. Moment of Silence and the Pledge of Allegiance
4. Minutes - Regular Council Meeting of 2/16/99
5. Declaration from Council President
6. Presentation of Petitions, Memorials & Remonstrances

(a) Resolutions

1. TR-99-2- A Resolution in Support of the Application for an Agricultural Preservation Restriction on Property Owned by Noel E. Brown Located at 443 North West Street, FH, MA (Mayor).
2. TR-99-3- A Resolution in Support of the Application for an Agricultural Preservations Restriction on Property Owned by Merwyn B. Farnsworth Located at 263-265 North West Street, FH, MA (Mayor).
3. TR-99-4- A Resolution Expressing the Town of Agawam's Opposition to the Legalization of

Casino Gambling in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (Coun. Bitzas).

4. TR-99-5- A Resolution Supporting an Application to the Massachusetts Historical Commission Fiscal Year 1999 Survey and Planning Grant Program and Committing to Fund the Local Match Component of the Grant (Mayor).

7. Report of Council Committees

8. Elections

None.

9. Public Hearings

(a)

1. PH-99-1-(TOR-98-9)-An Ordinance to Add Sec. 180-14A to the Zoning Code of the Town of Agawam Relative to Delaying the Demolition of Historically Significant Buildings (Conduct Public Hearing).

10. Old Business

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— Agawam Obituaries —

Alda A. Bedard

Alda A. (Pase) Bedard, 84, formerly of 87 Pilgrim Road, East Longmeadow, an Agawam political and civic leader, died recently at a local nursing home.

She was a 20-year office clerk at American Bosch Corp. and retired in 1964.

Born in Gambellara, Venice, Italy, she came to Springfield in 1928 and graduated from the High School of Commerce and the Gaugh Business School.

She moved to Feeding Hills in 1948 and was active in Agawam politics from 1958 to 1980. She served on the Agawam Democratic Town Committee for seven years and was its treasurer for four years.

She was appointed to the Agawam Whiting Street Fund Board of Trustees for five years and served on the Agawam Board of Public Welfare for three years. She was appointed to the Town Personnel Board and chaired the Agawam Old Age Council.

She was a 1980 graduate of Springfield Technical Community College at the age of 63. She settled in East Longmeadow in 1990 and was a communicant of St. Michael's Church.

She belonged to the Agawam Democratic Women's Club for 10 years and was president for two years. She was a member of Massachusetts Democratic Women on Wheels Region 5 for six years and was its president for two years. She also was active on the state level.

She volunteered at Mercy Hospital Guild and chaired the John F. Kennedy Library fund drive.

Her husband, Marcel Bedard, died in 1996.

She leaves a daughter, Lorraine Tousignant of Longmeadow; a sister, Antonette Roncolato of Chicopee; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Tazzini Funeral Home and the church, with burial in St. Michael's Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Hospice of Western Massachusetts, 50 Maple Street, P.O. Box 9058, Springfield, MA 01102-9058, or the Alzheimer's Association, 11 Campus Lane, Easthampton, MA 01027.

Virginia L. Mule

Virginia L. (Russell) Mule, 75, of Suffield Street, Agawam, died recently at Mercy Hospital in Springfield.

She was a seamstress for many years.

Born in Springfield, she lived in Brooklyn, New York, after World War II and returned to Springfield in the 1970's.

She leaves a son, Joseph S. of North Carolina; a daughter, Iris Mule of Brooklyn; and four grandchildren.

The funeral was held at West Springfield Curran-Jones Funeral Home, with burial in Center Cemetery.

John F. Hayes

John F. Hayes, 82, of 49 Amherst Avenue, Feeding Hills, died recently at Mercy Hospital in Springfield.

Born in Bridgeport, Connecticut, he grew up in Chicopee, lived in Springfield, and was a resident of Feeding Hills for the past 21 years.

He worked for the Springfield Street Railway for 38 years, retiring in 1978.

He was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church and an Army Corps veteran of World War II.

He was a member of American Legion Post 420 in East Springfield and of the Adriatic Club in Springfield.

He leaves his wife, the former Emily Hediger; a daughter, Kathleen A. Hayes Warner of Southwick; a sister, Marion Bisi of East Longmeadow; and a granddaughter.

The funeral was held at Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral home and in the church, with burial in St. Thomas Cemetery in West Springfield.

Theodore A. Perreault

Theodore A. Perreault, 74, of Agawam, died recently at a local nursing home.

He worked at Hamilton Standard Division of United Technologies in Windsor Locks and retired in 1990.

Born in Chicopee, he was a World War II Navy veteran, a communicant of St. John the Evangelist Church, and a 28-year Agawam resident.

He belonged to Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1632, American Legion Post 185, and the Agawam Sportsman's Club.

His wife, the former Helen Topor, died in 1988.

He leaves two daughters, Susan Fitzgerald of Springfield and Marilyn Perreault of Agawam; a brother, Ernest of Agawam; two sisters, Yvonne Dupuis and Irene Geoffrey, both of Chicopee; and three grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home and the church, with burial in Center Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association, 2 Mountain Royal Avenue, Suite 200, Marlborough, MA 01752, or the American Heart Association, 1111 Elm Street, Suite 9A, West Springfield, MA 01089.

Dorothy Jeffery

Dorothy (Jameson) Jeffery, 91, of Feeding Hills, died recently in a local nursing home.

She was a retired customer service representative for Western Massachusetts Electric Co.

Born in Palmer, she graduated from Palmer High School and Bay Path Institute.

She was a long-time resident of Feeding Hills and a member of the Agawam Congregational Church and the Adelphi Chapter of the Eastern Star.

Her husband, Russell H. Jeffery, died in 1964.

She leaves a nephew, Harold Jameson of Chester, and a niece, Patricia Darling of Montgomery.

A graveside service was held at Hillcrest Park Cemetery, and Byron's Allen Street Funeral Home of Springfield was in charge of the arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Shriners Hospital for Children, 516 Carew Street, Springfield, MA 01104.

Dallas E. Morse

Dallas E. Morse, 77, of Agawam, died recently at Mercy Hospital in Springfield.

He was a machinist for Diamond Match Co. of Springfield and retired in 1986.

Born in South Acworth, New Hampshire, he lived in Agawam for many years.

An Army private first class in World War II, he participated in the Normandy, Ardennes, Central Europe, and Rhineland campaigns in 1944-45.

He was a communicant of St. Anthony of Padua Church.

He leaves his wife, the former Elizabeth Morris of Agawam; a son, Wayne of Clifton Park, New York; two daughters, Paulette Broggi of Westfield and Deborah Matthews of Plymouth; two brothers, Irving of Hampden and Lewis of Chicopee; and 11 grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home and the church, with burial in Springfield Street Cemetery.

Edna D. Drzyzga

Edna D. (Tyburski) Drzyzga, 85, of 33 Meadowbrook Manor, Agawam, died recently at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

Born in the Thorndike section of Palmer, she moved to Agawam in 1949.

She was a food service assistant at Riverside Park for 30 years, retiring in 1978.

She was a communicant of St. John the Evangelist Church.

Her husband, Stanley F. Drzyzga, died in 1994. She leaves a son, Stanley F. Jr. of Westfield; a daughter, Barbara A. Duggan of Feeding Hills; a brother, Stanley of Agawam; 10 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home and in the church, with burial in Agawam Center Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Shriners Hospital for Children, 516 Carew Street, Springfield, MA 01104.

Robert L. Craig

Robert L. Craig, 69, a retired 20-year Navy chief petty officer living in Frederica, Delaware, died recently at Kent General Hospital in Dover, Delaware.

He was a Navy veteran of the Korean War and retired in 1967.

He then worked in West Springfield for General Electric for 10 years, retiring in 1981, and later was a groundskeeper at Crestview Country Club in Agawam for six years. He was born and educated in Akron, Ohio.

He served on the USS Boxer in February 1966 when it recovered the first Apollo unmanned flight off the Ascension Islands and also served on the USS Champlain in August of 1966 when it recovered the Gemini 5 crew from the Atlantic Ocean. In March of 1966, the USS Champlain recovered eight members from the Gemini Space Project.

He was a member of the Fleet Reserve Association, Branch 246, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the American Legion.

He leaves his wife, the former Louis A. Gibson; a son, Christopher L. of Agawam; five daughters, Cynthia A. Briggs of Agawam, Carolyn S. Meadows of Frederica, and Rebecca A. Remington, Debra J. Chechile, and Roberta "Bobbie Lou" Forques, all of Agawam; two brothers, Charles Dorow of Stow, Ohio, and James Craig of Riverside, California; 17 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Another son, Richard Craig, died in 1981.

The funeral was held at Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home, Agawam, with burial in Springfield Street Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Shriners Children's Hospital, 516 Carew Street, Springfield, MA 01104.

Louis R. Cusson

Louis R. Cusson, 55, of Honeoye, New York, died recently at Western Massachusetts Hospital, Westfield.

He owned Cusson Aluminum Home Improvement Co. in Agawam and Sands Construction Co. in New York state.

Born in Agawam, he was a graduate of Agawam High School and lived in New York state for 30 years. He moved back to this area recently.

He leaves four sons, William J. and Christopher S., both of Westfield, Shane E. of Greenville, North Carolina, and Craig P. of Fort Benning, Georgia; a daughter, Sandra K. Cusson of Bloomfield, New York; two brothers, Robert W. of Southwick and Harvey E. of Feeding Hills; three sisters, Lucille E. Remington of Agawam and Lorraine H. Paro and Marlene J. Page, both of Feeding Hills; and six grandchildren.

Another son, Anthony L., died in 1993.

The funeral was held at Agawam Funeral Home, with burial at the convenience of the family.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of Western New England, 50 Maple Street, Box 9058, Springfield, MA 01102-9058, or the Ronald McDonald House, 34 Chapin Terrace, Springfield, MA 01107.

SEE OBITUARIES - Page 9...

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Hazel M. French

Hazel M. French, 88, formerly of Roosevelt Avenue, Springfield, died recently at Olympus Health Care Group.

She was a registered medical records administrator in charge of the medical records department at the former Wesson Women's Hospital for 11 years. She retired in 1972.

She worked previously at the former Wesson Memorial Hospital and former Springfield Hospital in the same capacity. After retirement, she was a volunteer worker at the Agawam Senior Center.

Born in Chicopee, she lived in Agawam for many years before moving to Springfield.

She was a 1929 graduate of Agawam High School. She was a member of Agawam Baptist Church and was its financial secretary for eight years.

She was active in the United Women's Fellowship and served as president. She belonged to the Massachusetts Association of Medical Record Librarians, served on committees, and held several offices, including president from 1966 to 1967.

She leaves a sister, Shirley J. Coleman of Springfield.

A graveside service was held at Agawam Center Cemetery, and Agawam Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Memorial Fund, Agawam Baptist Church, 760 Main Street, Agawam, MA 01001, or the Salvation Army, 984 West Columbus Avenue, Springfield, MA 01105.

Dr. Said M. Zu'bi

Dr. Said Mohammad Zu'bi, 68, of 62 Pleasant Valley Road, Feeding Hills, a pioneer in the field of nuclear medicine, died recently at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

He was chief of the Division of Nuclear Medicine at Baystate Medical Center from 1988 until his retirement in 1996.

Born in Yadudah, Syria, he lived in Feeding Hills for 32 years.

He received a bachelor's degree from the American University of Beirut, Lebanon, in 1954 and his medical degree from there in 1959. He completed his surgical internship at Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse, New York, and his pathology residency and pathology fellowship at Hartford (Connecticut) Hospital from 1960 to 1964.

He was an assistant pathologist from 1968 to 1970, associate pathologist from 1970 to 1973, visiting pathologist from 1973 to 1979, director of nuclear medicine from 1968 to 1977, and attending physician in nuclear medicine from 1977 to 1996, all at Baystate Medical Center.

He was on the American Board of Nuclear Medicine and the American Board of Pathology, was an associate professor in the Department of Radiology at Tufts University in Boston from 1988 to 1996, and was director of nuclear medicine technology at Springfield Technical Community College from 1988 to 1996.

He also was an associate professor in the Department of Radiology at Tufts from 1977 to 1978 and an instructor in pathology at the American University of Beirut from 1966 to 1967. He was one of the first physicians in the country to be board-certified in nuclear medicine when it became a specialty.

He belonged to the Massachusetts Medical Society, the American College of Nuclear Physicians, the Massachusetts Radiological Society, the American Medical Association, the Longmeadow Field Club, the Ludlow Tennis Club, and the Photographic Society of America.

He was president of the New England Society of Nuclear Medicine from 1992 to 1994 and a member of the American University of Beirut Alumni Association of North America.

He leaves his wife, the former Mary E. Longchamp; three sons, Ghazi of Yadudah, Syria, Imad of South Hadley, and Marwan of Agawam; a daughter, Nadrah McKenzie of Belchertown; five brothers, Ahmed of Abu Dhabi, Ali and Isham, both of Riyad, Saudi Arabia, Mahmoud of Damascus, Syria, and Fozan of Dubai; three sisters, Fozia Zu'bi, Souheighly Zu'bi, and Hind Zu'bi, all of Yadudah; and a grandson.

The burial was private, and Agawam Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Children's Miracle Network, 759 Chestnut Street, Springfield, MA 01199.

Please be sure to patronize your local businesses... ADVERTISER NEWS

Senator Linda Melconian Says Workforce Training Fund Is Now Taking Grant Requests

Majority Leader Linda J. Melconian (D-Springfield) is pleased to announce the Workforce Training Fund that the Senate established in July of 1998 is now taking grant requests. The goal of the \$18 million fund is to provide resources that allow businesses and employee organizations to train current and newly-hired employees.

The training grants, which can range from \$5,000 to \$250,000, are awarded competitively to employers, employer organizations, labor organizations, and training providers. These grants do not impose training restrictions; thus, all Massachusetts-based employees are eligible for the programs (which may last up to two years).

Melconian urges all workers to take advantage of this new state fund enacted into law last July.

"Training workers is essential in producing a qualified workforce and endowing workers with the skills and tools necessary to be productive in their various businesses," she stated. "This fund will provide applicants with resources that they

can invest in the workforce and which, in turn, can maintain the strength and viability of the Commonwealth's businesses. The result will be job retention, job growth, and increased wages."

Application packets are available through the Division of Employment and Training at 1-800-252-1591, and the Massachusetts Office of Business Development and Regional Employment Boards. Information and application forms are also available on the Internet at www.detma.org/workforce.

The deadline for the first round of applications is 5:00 p.m. on February 24, 1999, and the second round is at 5:00 p.m. on April 5, 1999.

"I hope many workers will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity," stated Melconian. She also urges applicants from her district to let her office know when they apply, and to contact her if she can be of any assistance to them throughout the application process.



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Melconian Testifies On Minimum Wage

Majority Leader Linda J. Melconian (D-Springfield) testified before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means on Thursday, February 18th, in favor of an increase in the minimum wage in Massachusetts.

The bill, which Melconian co-sponsored, would raise the minimum wage 50 cents each of the next three years and then tie that wage to the consumer price index.

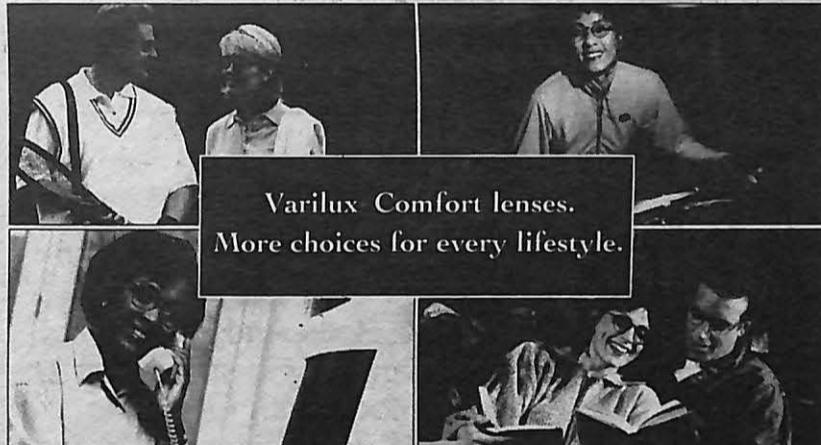
"The Massachusetts economy is booming, with unemployment at a 30-year low," said Melconian. "Yet, the lowest 20 percent of wage earners still earn less in real dollars than they did in 1989. Don't these workers deserve to take part in our Commonwealth's prosperity?"

Melconian stressed that a minimum wage increase is in many ways a woman's equity issue. Two-thirds of minimum wage workers are women, many heads of households. Melconian noted that while the federal poverty level for a single mother with two children is \$12,803, if she works full-time at minimum job, she will only earn \$10,920. "We need to return to the time when the minimum wage was a living wage," Melconian said. "Even under this bill, it will take two years for that mother to earn a wage that lifts her out of poverty."

Melconian also discussed government's historical role in guaranteeing that every citizen could earn a decent wage. She quoted John F. Kennedy and Daniel Webster and talked of her time as Assistant Counsel for former House Speaker Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill. She noted that each of these men knew that government's first duty is to give people the opportunity to get a job and to earn a decent wage. Melconian emphasized that minimum wage workers perform many important functions for society, including child and elder care, growing and harvesting crops, the manufacture of clothing, and other necessities.

Finally, Melconian stated the Senate's continuing commitment to the passage of an increase in the minimum wage. "This is not the first time we in the Senate have raised this issue. It will not go away. We will continue to fight for an increase in the minimum wage. We can do no less for the hardworking men and women of Massachusetts."

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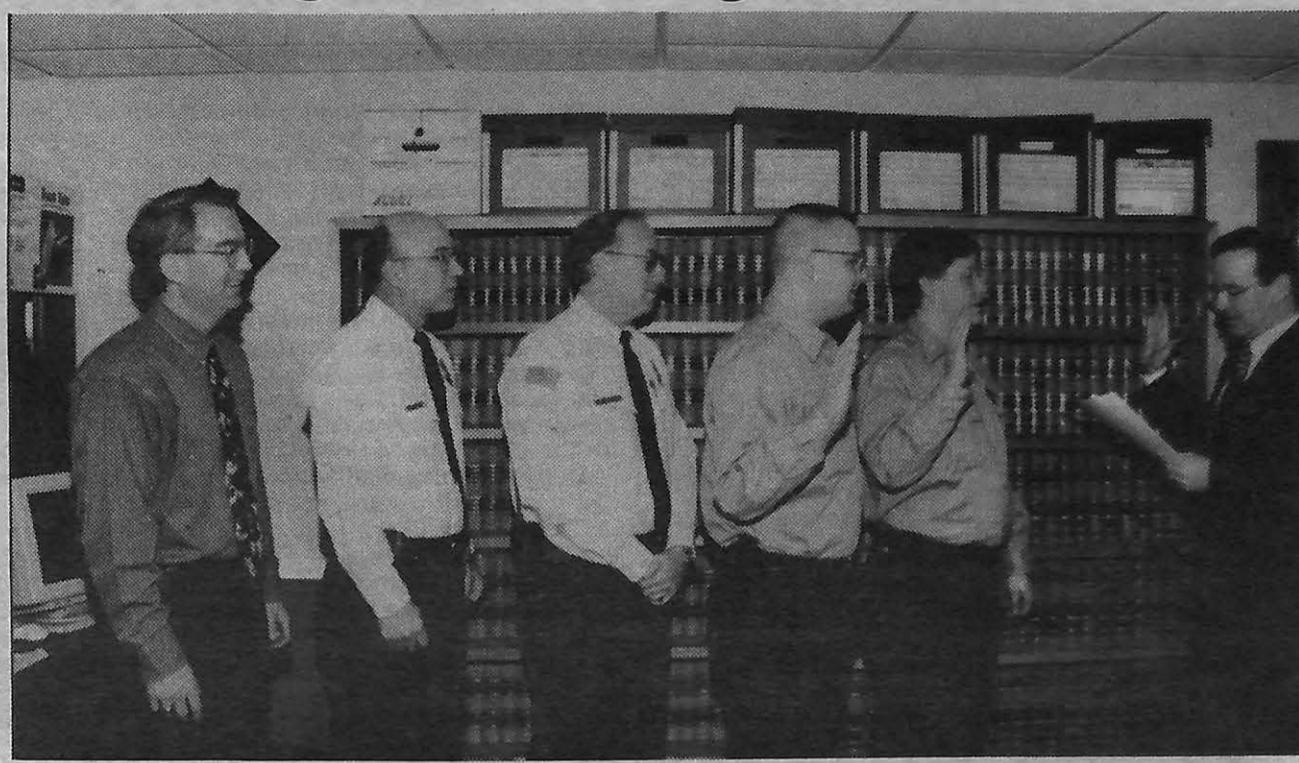
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Swearing In New Firefighter Paramedics...



EARLIER THIS MONTH, two new firefighter paramedics were sworn in at Agawam Town Hall. From left to right: Mayor Christopher Johnson, Deputy Fire Chief Steve Martin, Fire Chief David Pisano, new firefighter paramedics Paul Fenn and Daniel Terlik, and Town Clerk Richard Theroux. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

* * *
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- On Tuesday, buy one, get one **FREE** on color enlargements from same 35 mm negative (5x7, 8x10, 11x14 only; glossy only).
- On Wednesday, when you buy one reprint, get the second one **FREE** from the same 35 mm or 110 mm negative (color, glossy paper only).
- On Friday, bring in a roll of 24 exp. and/or 36 exp. to be developed, and receive a **FREE** roll of film (1-hour service only; color only).

Offer Ends March 20th!

**★ 24 Exposures For \$6.99
2-Day Service
(1 Set Only; Color 35 mm, 110 mm)**



Families

There Is No Generation Gap Here...



FIVE GENERATIONS CAME TOGETHER at a recent family gathering in the Legalos home in West Springfield. The guest of honor was Mrs. Mary Smith (center), who greeted (from left) her grandson, Robert Legalos; great-great-granddaughter, Kayla Casamento; her daughter, Jennie Mattingly; and great-granddaughter, Deana Casamento. Mrs. Smith has lived in Feeding Hills for more than 40 years and remains active with her "gifts" for gardening, canning, knitting, and crocheting.

"Friends" Of Captain Leonard House Say There Is Still Time To Make Donations

There is still time to make a donation to the annual "Friends of the Captain Charles Leonard House Campaign."

During the month of February, the Board of Trustees invite all residents, social groups, and businesses to become a "Friend" by donating a gift in any amount to help with the upkeep of Agawam's most historic building.

The Captain Charles Leonard House is a fine example of a spacious Georgian Home. This two-story structure was built by Captain Charles Leonard House in 1805 and it is believed to have been designed by the famed local architect, Benjamin Asher.

The house was originally built as a stagecoach tavern, and was the first overnight stop on the road from Hartford to points north. The original

tavern stage door entrance remains intact. Three of the rooms still have their own fireplaces with the original hearthstones, still in working order today. The wide entrance hall and upstairs hall were used for dancing.

At the far end of the entrance hall is the newly renovated Minerva Davis Meeting Room. This room is used by the public for many various functions. This past summer, the room was completely renovated so that it now matches the interior design of the rest of the house.

Tax deductible contributions may be sent to the Captain Charles Leonard House, 663 Main Street, Agawam, MA 01001. Donors' names will be recorded in the "Friends" record book, kept in the front hallway of the Leonard House.

Happy Retirement, Joe!



Husband, Father, & Grandpa

With Love,

*Janice, Kevin, Karen, Tim,
Bryan, Kris, Sara, and Joanne*

Agawam Jr. Women's Club Members Attend State Conference

The General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts and the Junior Federation of Women's Clubs held their Mid-Winter Conference on January 23, 1999 at the Sheraton Needham Hotel in Needham, Mass.

Six members from the Agawam Junior Women's Club were in attendance: Cindy Sanford Taylor, Donna Shibley, Aileen Semarie, Eva Jack, Rosalie Dialessi, and Wendy Lieberman.

The keynote speaker was Jeni Bognore, a heart transplant recipient who shared her struggle to survive when all odds were against her. At the age of six, a nine-month bout with rheumatic fever weakened her heart tremendously. While others were exercising to build a stronger heart, when Jeni exercised, it was destroying hers. After two valve transplants which only lasted seven years each, Jeni was brought into the hospital for a heart transplant. She is now stronger than ever. It's been eight years since she had the transplant.

Two workshops were held. The first was to explain about the Community Improvement Program for the year 2000. The second was to clarify when parliamentary rules and procedures are needed in a club meeting, conference, or public forum.

Before the evening ended, the Agawam Junior Women's Club took home a certificate for entering an article into the GFWC ClubWomen magazine. Lindsay Paul received an award for entering recycled art into the Art Contest. Way to go, Lindsay!

The Agawam Junior Women's Club is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs and the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts.

Community Grange 382 To Hold French Toast Breakfast

Community Grange No. 382 of Feeding Hills will hold a French Toast Breakfast on Sunday, March 21st from 8:30 a.m.-12:00 noon at the Grange Hall located at 47 North West Street in Feeding Hills.

The menu will consist of French toast, sausage, choice of juice, coffee, tea, or milk. Donation is \$3.50 for adults and \$1.75 for children under 12.

Reservations can be made by calling 789-2061. Come to a great home-cooked breakfast. The public is invited to attend.

ADVERTISER NEWS



Polish American Club of Agawam

139 Southwick Street
Feeding Hills

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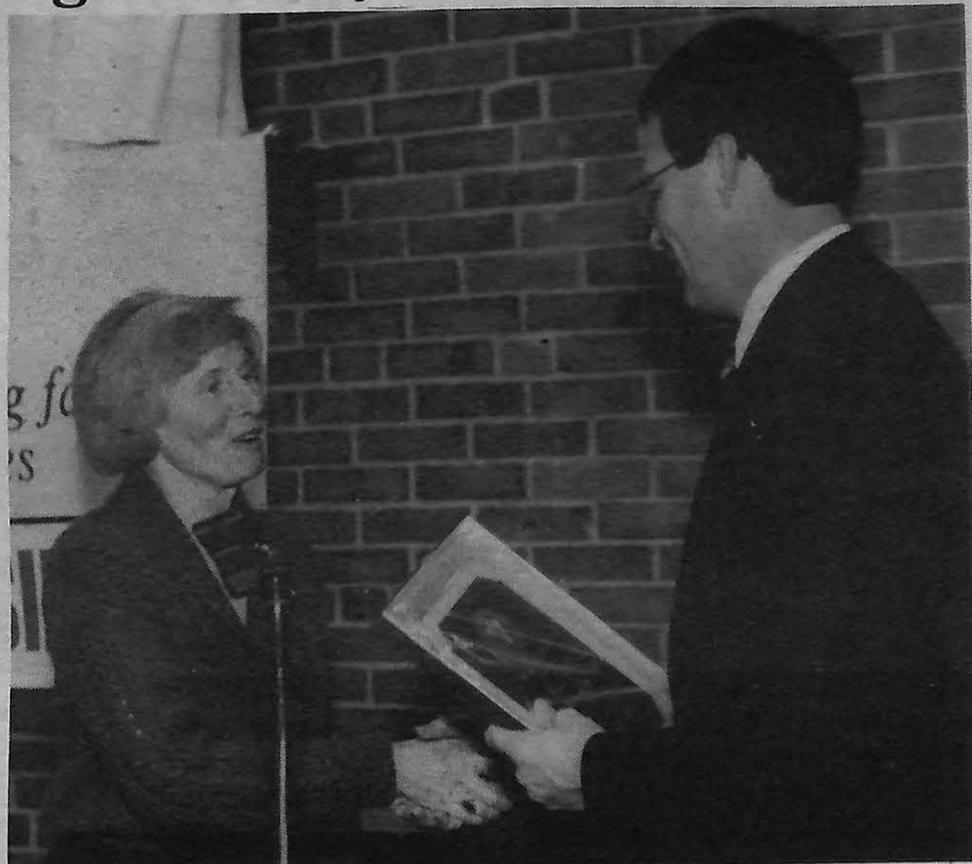
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Agawam Volunteers Recognized By YMCA...



IN PHOTO ABOVE: Janis Raschi (left), 1998 Senior Volunteer of the Year, with Chris Tougas, Membership Director of the YMCA of Greater Springfield, at the YMCA's annual volunteer recognition dinner on January 22nd. IN PHOTO BELOW: Janet Parslow (left), a volunteer with over 500 hours of service, and Joseph Doucette, 1988 Bingo Volunteer of the Year.



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Our Daily
Bread

MERCY AND REWARD

READ:
1 Timothy 1:12-17

This is a faithful saying... that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. —1 Timothy 1:15

When the great Puritan preacher Thomas Hooker (1586-1647) was on his deathbed, a friend tried to console him by saying, "Brother Hooker, you are going to receive your reward." "No, no!" he breathed. "I go to receive mercy!"

In sharp contrast, A. W. Tozer recalled the prayer of a man who had the idea that he could earn heaven as a reward for trying to keep the Ten Commandments. It went something like this: "Now, God, I admit I have not kept number 1 and number 3 and number 7 and number 9. But remember, Father, that I have kept all the others."

How foolish! This man failed to see that if he had broken one commandment, he was guilty of breaking them all (Jas. 2:10). His works were earning him condemnation, not salvation.

As the apostle Paul reviewed his 30-plus years of sacrificial service, he saw himself as the "chief" of sinners and totally dependent on God's mercy. Although he undoubtedly anticipated the rewards he would receive, he gloried only in the cross (Gal. 6:14). There Jesus paid the price for sin so that everyone who trusts in Him will receive mercy.

The wonder of God's mercy and grace! Someday I will "go to receive mercy." I hope you will too. —HVL

'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
For, O my God, it found out me;
Amazing love! How can it be
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me. —Wesley

GRACE IS GETTING WHAT WE DO NOT DESERVE.
MERCY IS NOT RECEIVING WHAT WE DO DESERVE.

AT THE YMCA'S ANNUAL VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION DINNER, Mrs. Ann Hall accepts on behalf of her husband, Robert Hall, his award as the 1998 Main YMCA Volunteer of the Year from Stephen T. Clay, President/CEO of the YMCA of Greater Springfield. The YMCA was fortunate to enjoy the donated services of 282 volunteers last year.

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and every
week...
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Ag. Golden Age Club Chapter 1 - March Calendar Of Events

Thursday, March 4th: "A Special" Hal Roach (Ireland's International Comedian) at Chez Josef -11:00 a.m.

Friday, March 5th: Board of Directors' Meeting at the Senior Center (1:00 p.m.)

Wednesday, March 10th: 1:30 p.m., Guest speakers will be Daniel & Mrs. Krug, a former Maple Sugar Producer from Westhampton.

Wednesday, March 24th: Meeting at 1:30 p.m. Business meeting with Election of Officers and an Easter Basket Raffle.

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Among Various Contributors...

Polish Club Bingo Donates \$1,500 To Agawam Helmet Fund

The Agawam Helmet Fund has passed the halfway mark thanks to the generous donation of \$1,500 by the Polish Club Bingo Workers through their Chairman, Robert Binnenkade. The presentation was made recently preceding the evening's play.

A sincere "thank you" to all the players. Without their support, this donation would not have been possible. The Polish Club has issued a challenge to other organizations in town to meet or surpass their gift.

Letters have been sent to all the organizations in town, and we would appreciate your consideration in participating in this worthwhile project. We never know when one of us may need it!

The Woronoco Foundation has presented a check for \$2,500. Their generosity has shown what commitment they have to our community.

The Men's Club of the First Baptist Church will sponsor a Spaghetti Supper on Friday, April 16th, at the church. The Agawam Junior Women's Club will be assisting with the dinner and have the video available. We look forward to the full support of the town to perhaps put us over the top!

Any group wishing to help the Agawam Junior Women's Club reach their goal, either with a function or some other idea, or for more information, is urged to contact Wilma Gillan, Club Chairperson, at 786-4671. A video explaining thermal-imaging unit is available.

If you have not made your donation, or care to make another one, please send them to the Agawam Helmet Fund, P.O. Box 332, Agawam, MA 01001.

On behalf of the Agawam Fire Department and the Agawam Junior Women's Club, we thank you in advance for considering this worthwhile project.

ADVERTISER NEWS



WILMA GILLAN (second from left), chairperson of the Agawam Helmut Fund, receives a check for \$1,500 from Helen Bencivenni on behalf of the Polish Club Bingo Workers. Looking on are Kathleen Flynn (far left) and Cindy Sanford Taylor (far right), President of the Agawam Junior Women's Club. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Calendar Of Events For The Month Of March From Agawam Golden Age Club's Chapter 2

March 3rd: Regular meeting at 1:30 at the Senior Center. Speaker: Gail Noe, representative from SHINE. Also, a representative from Collette Travel will speak about the trip to Italy that is scheduled in November.

March 17th: Regular meeting at 1:30 at the Senior Center. Entertainment by singer Charlene Mathieu.

March 22nd: Bus trip to Mohegan Sun Casino.

March 26th: Board of Directors' meeting at 1:00

at the Senior Center.

March 31st: Bus trip to Aquaturf. Dinner with entertainment provided by Chinese Acrobats.

Membership dues for 1999 should be paid by the end of March. Checks may be mailed to Harry Durant, 66 South Westfield St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030.

New memberships are now available in Golden Age Club's Chapter 2 for seniors residing in Agawam.

Glenn McCarthy Knows A Lot About Your Next Mortgage!

No, he's not a psychic. With 22 years as a professional banker, Glenn has the experience to know that most people keep their mortgage for about 5-10 years. That's why he writes flexible mortgage plans to meet the individual needs of his customers. After all, it doesn't take a crystal ball to see that the same fixed mortgage won't serve variable needs of every customer.

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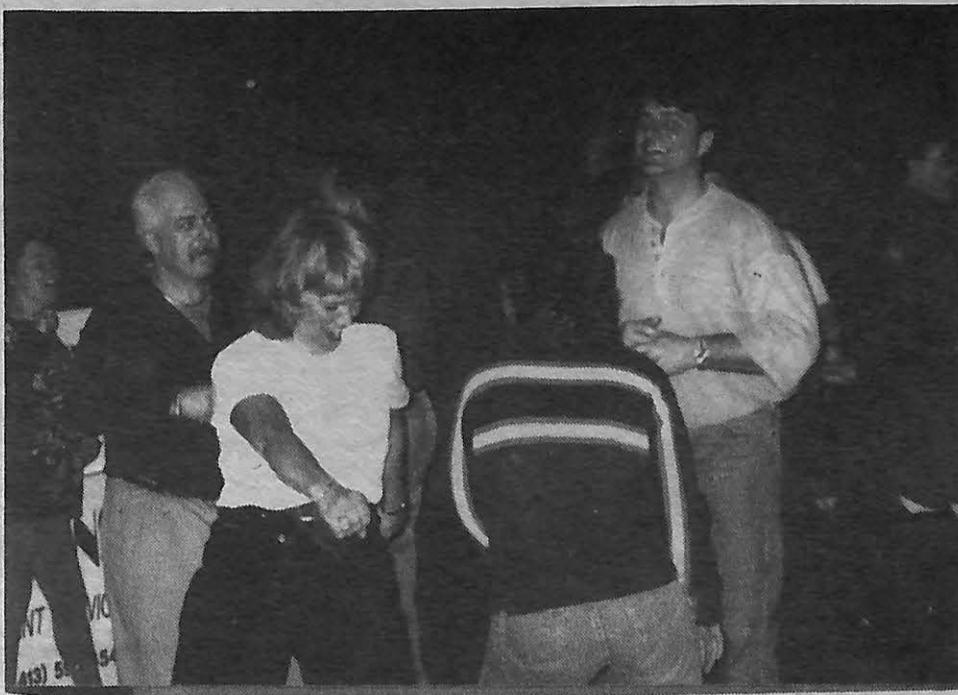
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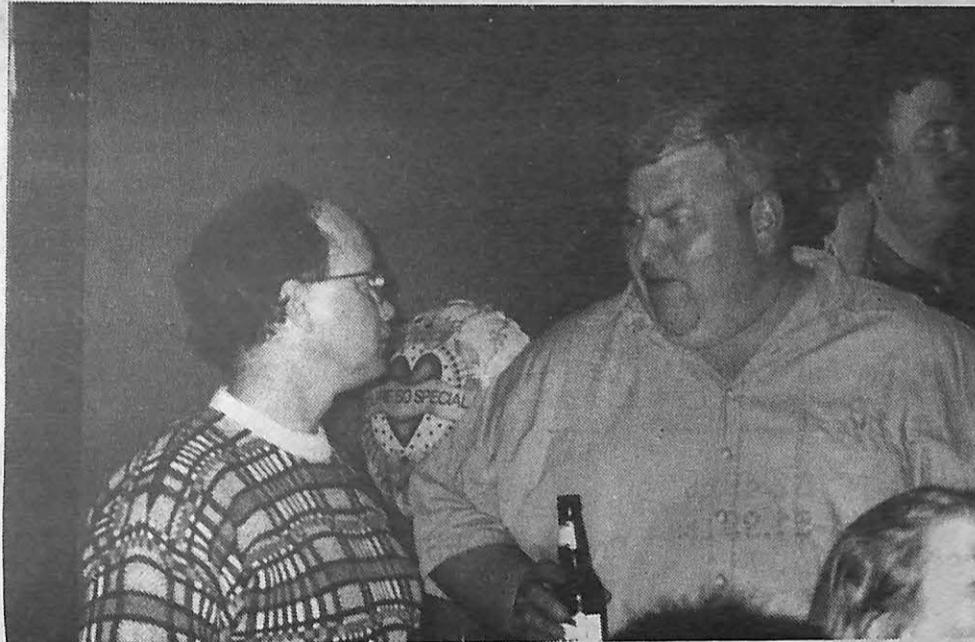
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475 Longmeadow Street, Longmeadow 567-3321 • 220 Westfield Street, West Springfield 781-3360

2nd Annual Dance Party Raises \$1,000...



ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH, the Springfield Turnverein was the site of the second annual dance party to beat the cold weather blues and raise money for the Tourette Syndrome Association. Called the "get the hell out of the house" party, this event was hosted by Chet and Linda Comee. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Toni & Lois Depalma, Cheryl & Kim Marsilli, Phil Losito, Linda Comee, David Trehey, and Mike Zuraw.



A GREAT TURNOUT was on hand for this year's party at the Springfield Turnverein, consequently raising \$1,000 for the Tourette Syndrome Association (last year, \$800 was raised for the Shriners Hospital for Children in Springfield). FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Rich Gloster, Chet Comee, Bob & Linda Hadden, and Lori Kelly.

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HAYDEN MICHAEL MENDRALA

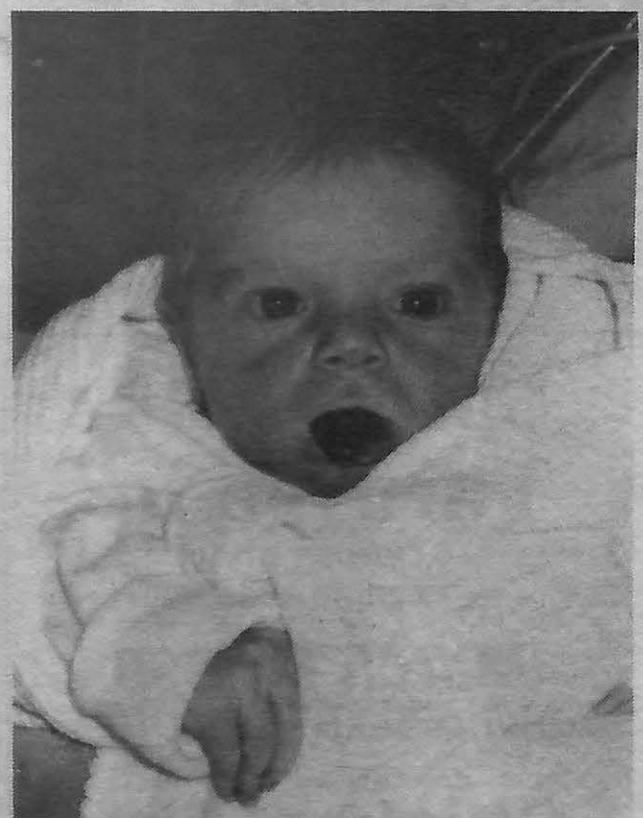
Mendrala Family Announces Birth Of Son, Hayden Michael

Michael & Amy Mendrala of 59 Depalma Street, Feeding Hills, proudly announce the birth of their son, Hayden Michael Mendrala.

He was born December 23, 1998, at Wesson Women's Hospital in Springfield. He weighed five pounds, 12 ounces, and was 18 1/2 inches long.

The maternal grandparents are Lou & Carolyn Calabrese of Bear Hole Road, West Springfield. The paternal grandparents are Ed & Dorothy Mendrala of Amostown Road, West Springfield.

The maternal great-grandparents are Walter & Barbara Fogg of Feeding Hills.



ANNA MARIE ANDERSON GREGORY

Christopher & Donna Gregory Announce Birth Of Daughter

Christopher & Donna Gregory of Agawam are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Anna Marie Anderson Gregory, on January 8, 1999 at 4:03 p.m.

Anna Marie weighed in at seven pounds, 10 ounces, and was 22 inches long. Grandparents are Robert & Pauline Gregory of Agawam, the late Donald & Anna Anderson of Springfield. Great-grandmothers are Mary Rosa of Holyoke and Florence Gregory of Agawam. Great-great-grandmother is Mary Marques of Longmeadow.

Boy Scout Troop 78 Slates "Spring Dance" For Sat., March 6th

Come one, come all to the Boy Scout Troop 78 Spring Dance. Fun to be had by all with entertainment provided by DJ Bobby Hamel and the New Wave.

The dance will be held Saturday, March 6th from 7:00 p.m. until midnight at the Springfield Turnverein, 126 Garden St., Agawam.

Ticket price is \$6 at the door with door prizes and raffle tickets available.

For more information, call Louise Pilegi at 786-0255.

* * *

Our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon...

* * *

Ag. Senior Center's Weekly Lunch Menu

Monday, March 1st: Strip steak with gravy on egg noodles, mixed vegetables, oatmeal bread, pears.

Tuesday, March 2nd: Escarole soup, chicken cutlet on a roll with lettuce and tomato, birthday cake.

Wednesday, March 3rd: Lasagna and meatballs, tossed salad, bread sticks, lemon pudding.

Thursday, March 4th: Hot dog on a roll, baked beans, cole slaw, mixed fruit.

Friday, March 5th: Baked fish, spinach, potato rounds, whole wheat bread, plums.

(Menu subject to change without notice.)

AGAWAM PUBLIC MARKET

USDA CHOICE

Boneless Top Round Roast	\$1.99 Lb.
Boneless Top Round London Broil (Center Cut)	\$2.49 Lb.
Top Round Cubed Steak	\$2.89 Lb.
Extra Lean Beef Round Stew Beef	\$2.69 Lb.
Fresh Ground Round 5 Lbs. Or More	\$2.49 Lb.
10 Lbs. Or More	\$1.99 Lb.
Boneless New York Strip Steaks	\$4.99 Lb.
Whole Boneless New York Strips (Cut To Order)	\$3.69 Lb.
Whole Butt	\$5.69 Lb.
Tenderloin	\$2.39 Lb.
Boneless Center Cut Pork Roast	\$2.69 Lb.
Grade "A" Skinless & Boneless Chicken Breast	\$1.99 Lb.
Fresh Ground Chuck 5 Lbs. Or More	\$1.69 Lb.
10 Lbs. Or More	\$1.39 Lb.
Country Style Pork Ribs	\$1.19 Lb.

DAIRY & FROZEN

Hood 1% Low Fat Milk (Gal.)	\$2.19
Hood 2% Low Fat Milk (1/2 Gal.)	\$1.39
Hood Half & Half (Pint)	89¢
Grade "A" Jumbo Eggs (Doz.)	99¢
Friendly Ice Cream (1/2 Gal.)	2/\$7.00

SEAFOOD

Frozen Swordfish Steaks	\$3.99 Lb.
Alaskan King Crab Legs And Claws	\$7.99 Lb.
Frozen Lobster Meat (11.3 Oz. Can)	\$9.99
Frozen Fish Cakes	\$1.29 Lb.

DELI

Land O' Lakes White American Cheese	\$2.99 Lb.
S&R Provolone Cheese	\$3.49 Lb.
Russer German Bologna	\$1.39 Lb.
Thumann's Gourmet Turkey Breast	\$4.99 Lb.
Hormel Genoa Salami	\$2.99 Lb.
Russer Virginia Baked Ham	\$2.99 Lb.
Russer Gourmet Hot Ham	\$2.99 Lb.
Russer Kielbasa Loaf	\$2.69 Lb.
Willow Brook Turkey Pastrami	\$1.99 Lb.

PRODUCE

Bananas	49¢ Lb.
Red & Green Seedless Grapes	\$1.19 Lb.
Washington State Red Delicious Apples	69¢ Lb.
Extra Large Green Peppers	99¢ Lb.
Onions (3 Lb. Bag)	89¢
Long Green Celery (Bunch)	89¢
Romaine Hearts (Pkg.)	\$1.89

* * *

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Using A Modern-Day Solution...

Agawam Author Solves Literary Dilemma Through Nonviolence

by Kathy Shepard
AAN Feature Writer

Agawam author Stanley Miles bring a modern-day solution to the problem of violence. Using computer graphics and originality, the conflict in his novel for young adults gets resolution. *Enough Is Enough*, originally called *The Puzzle*, starts out with the story's protagonist, Jake "The Brains" Adderup, leaving school for a weekend, innocently looking forward to getting home and doing a puzzle.

But Brains is suddenly humiliated by the school bullies, who yank his glasses from him and hide them, laughing and jeering at him unmercifully. After finally finding his glasses and making his way home, Brains finds comfort in the company of his German shepherd, Shoester, and his friend, Juan Berita.

But it becomes plain that the immediate comfort of these two loyal friends won't be enough this time to satisfy Brains. While he does not want revenge, he cannot stop thinking that the school bullies, Skeeter and Harold, have simply got to learn some kind of lesson.

Thus comes a brainstorming session between Brian and Juan, to think of a way to show the two tormenters a different way of behaving. The challenge is to come up with a plan of action that will attract public attention, placing pressure on the two bullies to respond to a dare.

Brains devises a way that does not involve violence. Juan carries a coded note to Skeeter and Harold in the mall's video game room, where a crowd of other students witnesses the initial challenge. From there, the two rowdies are committed to follow through. If they back out, they'll be quitters, and everyone in school would find out.

This story gains momentum as it develops. The plot is well-formed, and realistic settings and props add zest to the tale. A few examples are the use of walkie-talkies between Brains and Juan; an old spooky house called "The Fainknocker House"; and the use of a whistle that "only dogs can hear," which makes Shoester howl like a wolf. Descriptions of the games at the video room at the mall also contribute to the story's realism.

Conflict's Resolution Has Value...

The resolution of the conflict in *Enough Is Enough* has value for any young adults looking for ways to deal with cruel people who make a habit of turning others into targets. The plot twists — and it might be said that "the tables turn" — when Brains and Juan have the two school bullies at their mercy. They do not abuse this advantage, though, only using it to teach the two monikers a lesson they don't soon forget.

The beauty of the plot is that good overcomes evil, but it is done in an original and clever way; nonviolently, fairly, and without malice. Nonviolence is a theme that has pervaded the values of many, from Jesus Christ to Buddha, to the 1970's movie hero Billie Jack, and continues through present-day school programs like P.U.M.P. at the Agawam Junior High.

There can never be enough solutions, and *Enough Is Enough* has a value in current times, especially with the computer's role in the story. Nonetheless, there was plenty of brainpower, too. This book is worth the read, even for ages other than young adult, for its message and its application are universal and timeless.

It is available through Amazon on the World Wide Web, or it can be ordered through Barnes and Noble.

Miles began writing for his son but did not publish the stories, simply reading them to his offspring and the children of relatives. When he did start trying to publish, "I could have wallpapered



AUTHOR STANLEY MILES

the house with rejection letters at one point, so I let things go for a while."

"To Become A Published Author..."

During the 1970's as he cleaned his cellar, he found some old stories and it dawned on him that if he could do just one thing in this life that really had meaning to him, it was "to become a published author and to share a unique part of me with as many people as possible. That felt to me to be the reason I am on this earth."

While pursuing such high ideals and accomplishing his objectives through his literature, Miles has made the time to raise three children, maintain a happy marriage, and earn a bachelor of arts in history from Westfield State (attending part-time while working full-time). He resides in town with his wife.

Miles has worked for ISO-New England since 1965. He was first hired by Holyoke Water Power Company but was transferred to Northeast Utilities, which ended up being the same company because of a merger. Miles then transferred to New England Power Pool, which became ISO-New England because of deregulation of the electric industry.

His first book, which he calls "my coming out book," was self-published, entitled *Journey To Freedom*. This journey was like the author's own, "when I became free enough to choose my own values." The book is registered with the U.S. Library of Congress. He is still working on the follow-up to *Journey To Freedom*, entitled *The Aquarian Age*.

Another book he's published is *The Preacher Man and the Godlight*, a generously-proportioned novel, anticipated to fill many good hours for people who like to read. The philosophy of this work is, "Don't let the brain's fear destroy the mind's beauty."

Miles believes that people can do anything they really want to and that "thought creates." This latest book, *Enough Is Enough*, is bound to be successful, and it is hoped that we will be hearing more from this thoughtful and original writer.

For photo coverage in The AAN, please call Jack Devine at 789-0053; however, please give him at least 48 hours' notice.

A~OK Home Inspection Services

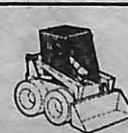
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LANCE DILLARD AND JENNIFER PISANO

Jennifer Pisano To Wed Lance Dillard

Mr. & Mrs. Donald Pisano of Agawam are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter, Jennifer Pisano, to Lance Dillard.

Lance is the son of Mr. & Mrs. John Dillard of Chicopee.

The wedding will take place on June 5th of this year. Following their honeymoon, the couple will reside in Westfield.

Fish & Chip Dinners Held Each Friday At The Agawam VFW

Each Friday evening, fish and chip dinners will be held at the Agawam VFW, Post 1632 (located at 194 South Street, Agawam).

The cost is \$5.95 per person, and the Friday night dinners will begin at 5:00 p.m. and end at 9:00 p.m.

* * *

Check our classified ads in each edition ... AAN!!!

* * *

Springfield Turnverein

176 Garden Street
Feeding Hills

March 6, 1999
Serving 6:00 To 7:30 P.M.

Chicken And Spaghetti Dinner

Cost:

**\$7.50 Adults
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Reservation Deadline: March 4th

Call The Club At
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Services Available At The Agawam Senior Center

SUPPORT SERVICES

SHINE Representative & Senior Pharmacy: Get answers to your Medicare questions. Call the Senior Center for your appointment (9:00 a.m. on the first and third Tuesday of each month).

Mercy Hospital Hearing Van: 9:30 a.m., one or two times a month.

Blood Pressure: On the second and fourth Thursday of each month from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Blood Glucose: On the third Friday of the month at 1:00 p.m.

Health Focus Club: The fourth Thursday of the month, 10:45 to 11:45 a.m.

Fuel Assistance & Food Stamps: Every Thursday, 9:00 to 11:30 p.m. (November through March).

Friendly Visitor: Visits homebound seniors five days a week in their homes. Call 789-7199.

SERVICES

(You Must Call For Your Own Appointments)

PVTA Van Trip to Enfield Mall: First Tuesday of the month, by appointment. Call 592-8400.

Foot Care Nurses: On the third Thursday of every month. Call 567-1023.

Dr. Benjamin Dicker (podiatry): First Wednesday of each month. Call 736-3225.

Dr. Salem (podiatry): Second Thursday of each month. Call 737-2360.

Attorney Teryl Deegan: At 2:00 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of the month (by appointment). Call 789-2928.

Attorney Alan Ferrigno: At 2:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month (by appointment). Call 786-9454.

OUTREACH: Please note — foot care and toenail outreach available to clients in the town who are not able to get into the center. Also note — this service is FREE to any senior who is not able to pay.

OUTREACH: Anyone who might suspect that their loved one has the beginnings of dementia or Alzheimer's may request that a V.N.A. specialist come to their home to complete a mini assessment. They are then able to give you a referral to take to a specialist for a thorough screening. Call Ellen Nepomuceno, R.N., Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice. 781-5070.

MONTHLY GROUPS AT THE SENIOR CENTER

(Any Senior Can Join)

Caregivers Support Group: The third Monday of each month, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Mental Health Support Group: The last Monday of each month, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Chapter 1 Golden Age Club: 1:30 p.m., the second and fourth Wednesday of each month.

Chapter 2 Golden Age Club: 1:30 p.m., the first and third Wednesday of each month.

S.A.L.T. (Seniors & Law Enforcement Together): 10:00 a.m., second Wednesday of the month.

A.S.G.A. (Agawam Senior Games Athletes): 10:00 a.m., third Thursday of the month.

C.O.A. (Council on Aging): 4:00 p.m., fourth Tuesday of each month.

Agawam Housing Authority: Call 786-1297.

If you have any questions, please call Gail Freeman at 789-7199.

Navy Petty Officer David Schwartz Is In The Mediterranean

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class David I. Schwartz, son of Melvin A. Schwartz of 22 Federal St., Agawam, is currently halfway through a six-month deployment to the Mediterranean Sea, Arabian Gulf, and Adriatic Sea while assigned to the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise, home-ported in Norfolk, Virginia.

Schwartz's ship is the lead ship of the USS Enterprise Battle Group.

During the deployment, Schwartz's ship participated in Operation Desert Fox in which U.S. forces launched missile attacks on military installations in Iraq. The attacks were made after Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's refusal to allow U.N. teams to inspect Iraqi installations for weapons of mass destruction.

While deployed, Schwartz's ship will continue to defend U.S. policy and support international interests in the Middle East and Europe.

Carriers, like USS Enterprise, are forward deployed around the world to maintain a U.S. presence and provide rapid response in times of crisis. They serve as a highly visible deterrent to would-be aggressors and, if deterrence fails, offer the most versatile and powerful weapons available, including Tomahawk cruise missiles and tactical aircraft.

The 1981 graduate of Cromwell High School of Cromwell, Connecticut joined the Navy in February 1984.

Classes For Children With ADD & ADHD At American Hapkido & Taekwondo Center

Martial Arts classes in Taekwondo for children with ADD and ADHD will be offered every Tuesday from 4:00-5:00 p.m. and Wednesdays from 3:30-4:30 p.m. starting March 2nd at the American Hapkido & World Olympic Taekwondo Center, 1342 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills (next to Super Stop & Shop).

These classes are designed specifically for children with ADD & ADHD to teach them self-defense, as well as increase self-esteem, self-confidence, self-discipline, and coordination.

Each student will receive the precise instruc-

tion needed to accomplish these goals. This program was designed with the assistance of neurologists, counselors, pediatricians, and the American Hapkido & World Olympic Taekwondo Center instructors.

Many researchers have found that martial arts can help these children with the behavior skills they need. This is an open enrollment program.

For more information or brochure, contact the American Hapkido & World Olympic Taekwondo Center at 789-1001.

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Church News

Reflections...

submitted by

Rev. Peter Monahan
Pastor of the New Life
Christian Church,
Suffield, CT
(413) 789-1377 or
toll free (877) 643-9801

Temptations Are Common To Everyone

No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone, so says the Bible. There are more ways than one to handle temptation. How we handle temptation determines whether or not we become better people as a result of having such an experience. The Scripture records two instances of people encountering remarkably similar experiences of temptation. In one instance, the temptation was endured with complete success; in the other, complete failure.

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." Both Eve and Adam ate the forbidden fruit.

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted 40 days and 40 nights, and afterwards He was famished. The tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command these stones to become bread." But He answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took Him to the holy city and placed Him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to Him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command His angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor, and he said to Him, "All these I will give You, if You will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and only serve Him.'" Then the devil left Him, and suddenly angels came and waited on Him.

In both of the cases presented by Scripture, the temptations were similar. Time and space constraints will allow us to consider only the first temptation this week. We will, therefore, have to conclude our thoughts on this topic next week.

In the first instance of temptation, the parties were tempted to think they should provide for their own needs apart from God's help. Jesus warned us not to make our daily needs the focus of our lives, but rather to strive first for the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be yours as well. A life focused on obtaining daily needs is a misfocused life. What will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?

A thought to ponder until next week: when Adam and Eve sinned, they didn't just ruin their own lives. Therefore, just as sin came into the world through the one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned - sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned where there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose transgressions were not like the transgression of Adam. Sin always has consequences beyond the person who commits the sin. We should think of that the next time we encounter any temptation.

Nocturnal Adoration Society To Meet On Friday, March 5th

The Nocturnal Adoration Society of Agawam and West Springfield will meet at Saint Theresa's Church in Agawam to conduct and pray the Office of the Blessed Sacrament Friday, March 5th from 7:00-11:00 p.m.

All are invited to come and spend an hour in Eucharistic Adoration.

St. John's Parish News And Notes

ST. JOHN'S OVER-60 CLUB

The next monthly meeting will be on Thursday, March 4th, at 1:30 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by Joyce Doyle, and homemade pies will be served.

New members are welcome to come and see what makes this happy group tick.

BIBLE STUDY

Each Wednesday morning. Interested? Call Annette at 786-4977.

Each Thursday night at 7:30 p.m. during Lent, a video presentation of next Sunday's Scriptures will take place in the Parish Center. (This video presentation will then be repeated on Friday morning after the 8:30 a.m. Mass.)

AGAWAM CATHOLIC SINGLES CLUB

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Anyone interested in joining should call Frank, 789-2764, or Kay B, 786-8442.

February 26th: Bay Path College's production of "Bye Bye Birdie." Contact Joanne, 786-1583.

SUNDAY TO SUNDAY

Our town Lenten series began last week at Sacred Heart on Tuesday morning and here at St. John's on Thursday evening after the 7:00 p.m. Mass.

This video presentation gives insights into the Sunday Scriptures, with some suggestions for the week ahead. We think you will find the program quite helpful.

MILLENNIUM

The millennium is upon us and St. John's Parish Community is getting prepared to have a series of ongoing events throughout 1999 and 2000.

Our Millennium Committee wants you to join us. See how you may aid the process.

Come be part of the planning with your ideas and talents on Sunday, February 28th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Center.

BENEFIT SUPPER

St. John's is sponsoring a Benefit Supper for the Ruehl/Bahre family of Agawam. It will be held this coming Saturday from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Parish Center.

Tickets for the spaghetti and meatball supper can be obtained from Sister Fran (786-4499). The donation is \$5 for adults, and \$3 for children.

Our "Church News" is just one more reason why you turn our pages each and every week ... ADVERTISER NEWS!!!

* * * * *

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News And Notes From F.H. Congregational

You are welcome to join with us at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church, which is located at 21 N. Westfield Street in Feeding Hills. Sunday worship hour begins at 10:00 a.m. and will include the Order for the Reception of Members.

The lectionary readings for February 28th, the second Sunday in Lent, will be Genesis 12:1-4a, Psalm 121, Romans 4:1-5, 13-17, John 3:1-17, or Matthew 17:1-9. Rev. Donaldson's sermon title is "Growing Pains."

Children are welcome to attend worship with their parents, leaving at the designated time for Sunday School; nursery care will be provided for the very young.

We will collect monetary donations for Church World Service during morning worship this Sunday for the purchasing of blankets which CWS will distribute worldwide wherever they are needed.

Operation Friendship will sponsor a Roast Beef Supper here at the church on Saturday, March 6th, with continuous servings from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

Reservations are not required to enjoy this delicious dinner.

Suitcase seminars will be held in Westfield on Saturday, March 20th. The courses are designated as practical training for local church leaders and are free to members of churches affiliated with the Massachusetts Conference, UCC.

Check the listing in last month's *Informer* or posted on the bulletin board for complete information.

The Youth Choir will be practicing each week following morning worship on Sundays.

On the calendar:

Friday, February 26th: 5:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight, Creative Memories.

Sunday, February 28th: 10:00 a.m., Blanket Sunday; Children's Choir practice after worship; 6:30 p.m., Evening Worship.

Monday, March 1st: 4:00 p.m., Girl Scouts; 7:30 p.m., Council.

Tuesday, March 2nd: 7:00 p.m., A.A.; 7:00 p.m., Stewardship & Missions.

Wednesday, March 3rd: 4:00 p.m., Girl Scouts; 6:30 p.m., Girl Scouts; 7:00 p.m., Choir.

Thursday, March 4th: 7:00 p.m., A.A.

Church News - continued...

Valley Community Church Elects New Full-Time Minister

Wonderful things continue to happen for the church on the hill at 152 So. Westfield St. in Feeding Hills, MA.

The most wonderful of all is the news that the congregation voted unanimously to call Pastor Gene de Jongh from Cedarville, Illinois to be the new full-time minister of Valley Community Church.

His arrival in June will be eagerly anticipated. In the meantime, Rev. Robert Loesch continues to guide us and lead us in worship as interim minister. His sermon for this Sunday has a message for all as he speaks of "Strong Families, Strong Communities."

As always, visitors of all denominations of the Christian faith are welcome and we invite you to join us following the 9:30 a.m. service for refreshments and fellowship. Sunday School and Adult Bible Class commence at 11:00 a.m.

Pastor Loesch will also continue our Lenten Wednesday series with an informative talk on the life and thought of Albert Schweitzer and his influence on Pastor Loesch. This series is open to the Christian community and begins at 7:00 p.m., following our Junior Choir rehearsal. Senior Choir rehearsal will meet at 7:45 p.m.

If you would like more information on services and activities at Valley Community Church, please call the church office on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. or leave a message any other time and one of our Deacons will be happy to return your call.

Catholic Women Slate Club Show & Dinner

The annual Club Show and Dinner of the Catholic Women's Club of Agawam will be held on March 8th in the Social Center of St. John the Evangelist Church on Main Street.

The March meeting will be dispensed with, the dinner will be at 6:30 p.m., and the show will be staged immediately after the dinner.

The cast for the show includes Dorothy Frenette, Marie LaChapel, Jackie Toussaint, Paula Raiche, Marty Jerry, Terry Longo, Pauline Pauquette, Angela Beaudry, Jane Treventhan, Carol Pignatari, and Charlene Moretti, chairperson.

Piano accompaniment will be by Charles Maniscalchi and Lorraine Maniscalchi is dinner chairperson. Assisting Lorraine will be Peggy Altobelli, Theresa Barlow, Raymond Bean, Betty Bury, Bernice Consolini, Lucille Harpin, Eileen Lutat, Kay Muzzi, Rosalie Ross, Vola Sloboda, Estelle Veronessi, and Ginny Zerbata.

Corned Beef/Cabbage Dinner At St. David's

St. David's Episcopal Church will be hosting a Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner on Monday, March 1st at 6:00 p.m.

The dinner will be held at St. David's Church, 699 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills.

The menu will include corned beef & cabbage, oven-roasted potatoes, glazed carrots, garden salad, bread & butter, coffee, tea, cold drinks, and dessert.

Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$3 for children under 12. These may be purchased in advance at St. David's or at the door.

Proceeds from this dinner will go towards the debt reduction of the new church building.

For more information, please call (413) 786-6133.

Dr. Dolores Greer To Speak At St. Theresa's

St. Theresa's Church, 74 Bridge St., Agawam will host Dr. Dolores Greer and her presentation "Being Roman Catholic And Proud Of It!" on Friday, March 12th at 7:00 p.m. at the church.

Dr. Greer comes to our community from Harlem (New York City). She has spoken throughout the country and has been a guest on EWTN.

Admission is free. Handicapped accessible. A "free will" offering will be taken to cover expenses.

You'll be captivated by Dr. Greer's enthusiasm. Get a boost in your celebration of the faith, and be a beacon for others!

For information, call 786-4451.

Workshop For Parents & Teens At 1st Baptist

Are you a parent with teens? Or are you a teen with parents? If so, there's something going on that you should be aware of.

On Saturday, March 13th, the First Baptist Church of Agawam is hosting a Parent/Teen Workshop from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. It will incorporate discussion, role-playing, and games, as well as some critical truths to help teenagers and their parents understand and enjoy each other more.

Dave Anderson, former Youth Director of the Agawam Baptist Church and current Director of Christian Education for the First Baptist Church of North Adams, is facilitating the workshop. Dave brings over 10 years of experience in helping and supporting youth and their families. He also brings a spirit of joy, which makes any session that he leads FUN.

The workshop is open to the public. A \$5 per person donation is requested to help offset the cost of materials and food. Lunch is included.

Pre-registration is strongly encouraged by calling the church office at 786-7300 or John or Nancy Barber at 786-9498. If you get an answering machine, leave a name, phone number, and number attending.

It is said that the teen years are survivable by both the teen and parents. With this workshop, it is hoped that you will more than survive them, but perhaps even enjoy them.

The First Baptist Church of Agawam is an American Baptist fellowship located at 760 Main Street, at the corner of Elm.

Study Group For Couples At 1st Baptist

"Love Life for Every Married Couple," a study group, will continue this Sunday after morning worship at First Baptist Church.

Pastor Richard Barnes is leading the study, which will continue throughout Lent. Other church school opportunities are available at the same time for all ages.

Rev. Barnes will speak on "The Way of Life" for his morning message at the 9:30 a.m. service. Assisting him will be Donna Modzelewski, who will lead the responsive reading.

Greeters are Helen Kane, Linda Scheve, and Diana Lazazzera. Nursery care is provided throughout the morning.

At 7:00 p.m., the video series "The Hurried Family" will continue in Davis Hall.

In addition, on Wednesday evening, March 3rd, and continuing during Lent, there will be a discussion of the book, "Six Hours One Friday," by Max Lucado. This group is led by Deacon Ray Williams, Jr. It convenes at 7:30 p.m. in Lockhart Parlor.

On our calendar this week:

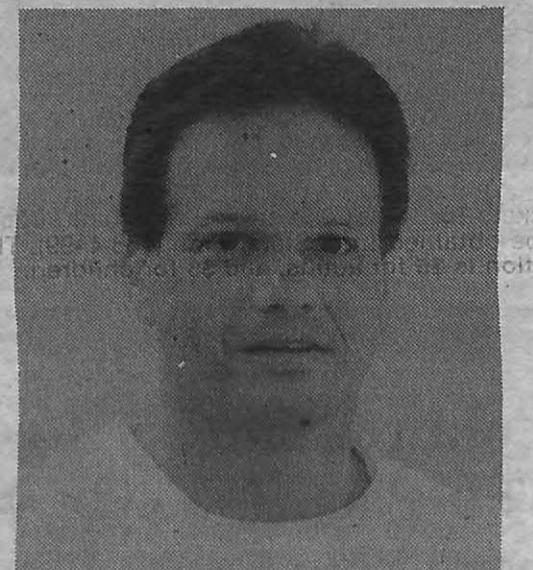
Monday, March 1st: 7:00 p.m., Men's Group; 7:00 p.m., Sunshine Circle; 7:30 p.m., Amicitia Circle

Tuesday, March 2nd: 7:00 p.m., Junior Youth Group

Wednesday, March 3rd: 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Trading Post Open

Thursday, March 4th: 7:30 p.m., Choir Rehearsal

If you are planning to buy or sell... Call Ray First!



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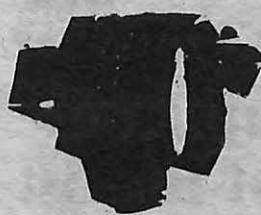
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How Much House Can You Afford?

Before you begin looking for "For Sale" signs on houses, do your homework to know what you can afford to spend on a home.

Review your budget and determine how much you want to pay each month. Lenders will consider the home's sales price and your down payment in determining how much to loan you, but you need to determine how much you feel comfortable paying each month.

In addition, remember that housing costs and usually more than just mortgage principal and interest; they often include property taxes and insurance.

As a general rule, your monthly housing cost should not exceed 28 percent of your gross monthly income. If you have other long-term debt (car payments or credit card balances), that monthly debt plus your house payment shouldn't be more than 36 percent of your monthly gross income.

Since many lenders offer mortgage pre-approvals, you might want to meet with a lender early in the home-buying process, so that you know what size loan you qualify for.

For more information on buying a home, call Pam Savioli at (413) 748-7565.



TERRY J. BENNETT

Terry J. Bennett Is Promoted At Woronoco Savings

Woronoco Savings Bank recently promoted Terry J. Bennett to the position of Executive Office Administrator.

An employee of the bank since 1995, Terry holds an Associate's Degree in Secretarial Sciences from Mount Ida College and is currently a continuing education student at Westfield State College. She is also enrolled in the American Institute of Banking's Commercial Lending Certificate Program.

Terry is an Alumni Board Representative for Mount Ida College, a member of the Alexander Prew Scholarship Committee, and a member of the International Association of Administrative Professionals. She resides in Westfield.

Woronoco Savings Bank has 12 branches throughout the Pioneer Valley, including four branches in Big Y Supermarkets. Woronoco employs a staff of approximately 160 people.

Customers Drop Trousers For Easter Seals...



ED BORGATTI, JR. (seated, at left) of E.B.'s Restaurant in Agawam; **Bill Magrone**, of Graphic Printing, West Springfield; and **Liz Greenway**, owner of Walnut Street Cleaners, recently kicked off a unique fundraising program for Easter Seals. For each customer who drops off a pair of trousers for cleaning at the 380 Walnut Street Extension, Agawam location, the business will donate 25 cents. The program, part of the 1999 Annual Campaign, will run through March 15th. All three businesspeople are volunteers for Easter Seals: Magrone is 1999 Campaign Chair, Borgatti a Vice Chair, and Greenway a VIP.

Coldwell Banker Keenan & Molta Associates To Participate In Nationwide Sweepstakes

Southwick: Coldwell Banker Keenan & Molta Associates announced recently the participation in "Spring Into A Beautiful Home," a nationwide sweepstakes sponsored by Coldwell Banker Real Estate Corporation (COLDWELL BANKER).

This is the second year Coldwell Banker Keenan & Molta Associates has offered the promotion to the greater Springfield area. The promotion ends May 30, 1999. Sale or purchase is not necessary to be eligible for the drawing, and consumers can participate by filling out entry forms available at Coldwell Banker Keenan & Molta Associates offices, open houses, at participating Ethan Allen stores through COLDWELL BANKER Online, located at www.coldwellbanker.com.

Four Grand Prize winners will win \$10,000 worth of Ethan Allen home furnishings. Four First Prize winners will win \$2,500 worth of Ethan Allen furniture, and four Second Prize winners will win

\$1,000 worth of Ethan Allen furniture.

"There is a natural synergy that has led the teaming of Coldwell Banker Real Estate Corporation and Ethan Allen for the second year in a row," said Robert P. Molta, President.

"We are pleased to have the opportunity to participate in this exciting promotion, and offer the greater Springfield community the chance to win Ethan Allen's elegant and beautifully crafted furniture."

Coldwell Banker Real Estate Corporation, a subsidiary of Cendant Corporation has more than 2,900 independently owned and operated franchised real estate offices and over 69,000 sales associates throughout North America.

For more than 90 years, COLDWELL BANKER has been North America's premier full-service provider of real estate services.

Joe Coughlin Joins Springfield Office Of Coldwell Banker Keenan & Molta Associates

Robert P. Molta, President of Coldwell Banker Keenan & Molta Associates, is proud to announce that Joe Coughlin has joined its Springfield office and management team.

Joe has sold over \$18 million in real estate over the past 10 years, has extensive management experience, and holds a Massachusetts and Connecticut real estate license. He has earned his Certified Buyers Representative designation and three real estate customer service awards. Joe has been a consistent multi-million dollar producer.

Joe is a 20-year veteran of the United States Coast Guard and resides in East Longmeadow with his wife, Linda, and their three children.

Joe can be reached at 783-2000, 263-3651, or 525-3446.

Coldwell Banker Real Estate Corporation is a subsidiary of Cendant Corporation (NYSE:CD), franchises more than 2,800 independently owned and operated real estate offices with nearly 62,000 sales associates throughout North America.

In addition to servicing the full spectrum of the residential real estate market, Coldwell Banker is an industry leader in the sales of luxury homes through its Previews program.

Coldwell Banker Online, one of the most comprehensive real estate industry web sites, is located at <http://www.coldwellbanker.com>.

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Spotlight On Business - continued...

**Timely Tips On How To Manage Your Finances**

by Sue N. Alvanos
Personal Financial Advisor
American Express
534-3883.

Pay Less Taxes And Keep More Of Your Money*(Continued From Last Week)*

Postpone paying taxes until you retire. Tax-deferral is a powerful tool for reaching your retirement goals — and saving taxes today. With tax-deferred investments, any earnings can accumulate faster than on currently taxable investments due to compounding.

Compounding is important because you earn money not only on your original investment, but also on accumulated gains that have not yet been taxed. In addition, when you withdraw your money in retirement, you may find that your tax rate is lower than it is today. There are several ways to defer taxes.

• **Contribute to an employer-sponsored retirement plan.** Because contributions to 401(k), 403(b), and other tax-qualified retirement plans may be made with pre-tax dollars, you get the double benefit of reducing your current taxable income and deferring paying taxes until you withdraw the funds. Many employers also offer a matching feature on funds you contribute — giving you additional incentive to maximize your contributions. Withdrawals from tax-deferred accounts prior to age 59½ may be subject to a 10 percent IRS penalty.

• **Contribute to an IRS.** When money is invested in traditional IRAs, any earnings grow tax-deferred. If you qualify to invest in the new Roth IRA, it's even better yet. While your contributions are made with after-tax dollars, you pay no tax on distributions as long as the account has been held for at least five years and the distribution is due to: death, disability, to pay for qualified first-time homebuyer expenses, or you are over 59½.

• **Contribute to an annuity.** Annuities offer another alternative for accumulating retirement savings. Although annuities are life insurance company products, they work quite differently than life insurance policies. Annuities offer a regular stream of retirement income with no limit on your investment amount. You can invest in a lump sum or at regular intervals, and any growth of the annuities is not taxed until distributed. (Corporations and other non-persons cannot get tax-deferral on annuities.)

Avoid taxes altogether. Income earned on securities such as municipal bonds or municipal bond funds is exempt from federal income taxes. Investments in municipal securities from your state of residence may be state and local tax-exempt as well. When determining if tax-exempt securities are right for you, consult with a knowledgeable financial advisor who can help you compare the after-tax equivalent of these securities with other taxable investment alternatives.

Using these and other strategies can help you reduce your tax burden and improve your financial well-being. A tax professional can make sure you are taking advantage of all available deductions and a financial advisor can recommend a tax management strategy that helps ensure your assets are adequately allocated among currently taxable, tax-deferred, and tax-exempt choices.

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**COMMON SENSE**
with
Raymond Rose
THE PIONEER GROUP**Some Tips For Daily Savings...**

Listed below are several ideas on how you can save money on a daily basis...

— Before you buy anything, ask yourself, "Do I want this or do I really need it?"

— Stop reaching for the plastic. In fact, carry less cash and plastic with you. Try to carry just what you need for the day. Avoid ATM's and write checks to pay specific bills, not just "cash." If you write checks to cash, you will never know where your money went.

— Every morning, write down how much money you have. Every evening, see how much you have left. Account for every penny ... knowledge is the only way to control your money.

— Put each member on an allowance ... this will tell you where your money goes and keep you from being nickel and dimed to death. It also will encourage your family to learn to manage their money.

— Shop with a list, and do your best to stick with it. Control impulse buying!

— Share your goals with your kids so that everybody understands and you will all be on the same "saving track."

— Make a daily effort to turn off unused lights (not to mention unwatched T.V. sets), don't waste water, and don't make unnecessary trips in the car.

HOMEOWNER'S INSURANCE

When purchasing homeowner's insurance, it is best to get replacement cost coverage. This will ensure that your home and its possessions will be covered, no matter what the cost to replace or rebuild ... even if that cost exceeds the face value of the policy. This coverage protects you from inflation, which each year makes it more expensive to replace your home or possessions.

Unfortunately, a number of major insurance companies are beginning to restrict this guarantee, capping at 120 to 125 percent of the face value of your current policy. So, when shopping

for a new policy, make sure you ask about replacement cost coverage.

The associates and customers at the Feeding Hills Stop & Shop raised \$1,173.00 to help combat hunger in their community through the company's annual Food for Friends' fundraising program.

During the Food for Friends program, Stop & Shop store volunteers "adopt" a local organization whose mission is to provide hunger relief. Stop & Shop volunteers then design fundraising events such as carnivals, bowling tournaments, and hot dog sales; and all the proceeds go to the hunger relief organization of the store's choice.

As a result, Stop & Shop raised nearly \$323,000 for hunger relief organizations through Food for Friends.

Thanks to the support of its customers, the Feeding Hills Stop & Shop raised \$1,173.00 through its Food for Friends program. All money collected will benefit the Agawam Junior Women's Club. In total, over \$150,600 was collected to benefit hunger relief organizations

ing for or renewing homeowner's insurance, make sure you accurately estimate the value of your home and its replacement cost.

Inform your agent of any remodeling, and ask the agent to assess the replacement cost in person. If you have an expensive or older home, enlist a contractor to evaluate the cost of a complete rebuild, especially if you want it rebuilt in the same style.

WHY INVEST?

Chances are you've either got some money socked away or you are at least planning to do so. What are you saving for? Retirement? College for the kids? A down payment on a great set of wheels? A new stereo system complete with woofers and tweeters? A trip to the hills of Tuscany?

Say you take \$2,000 of that savings and put it into "the market" — that nebulous term that refers to everything from bonds to stock mutual funds to those shares of AT&T stock your grandfather gave you on your 16th birthday. Invested rather conservatively, two grand would be worth \$41,085 after 30 years. You could buy that Tuscan retirement villa with that kind of money.

Maybe you don't have \$2,000 burning a hole in your bank account, but perhaps you can afford to sock away just two dollars a day, 250 days a year. It's not a lot, but if you're in your early twenties, you've got the investor's best ally on your side — time.

If you invest \$500 once a year in an investment that averages a 12.42 percent annual return — the annual stock market return since 1950 — it'll grow to roughly \$1 million after 46 years, which is right around the time you'll be ready to retire.

Of course, as you get older and more financially stable, you should be able to put away more to invest. Even \$60 a month, about what you pay for basic cable TV and a movie channel, could grow to another half a million dollars by the time you're ready to quit that day job or buy out the boss' share of the business.

Simply put, you want to invest in order to create wealth. Whether you put your money into stocks, bonds, or mutual funds, the goal is to increase that money and to use it for things like retirement, education, recreation, or to pass on to the next generation. Whether you're starting from scratch or have a few thousand dollars saved, investing will help get you going on the road to financial well-being.

Thank you for giving **THE PIONEER GROUP** the opportunity to serve you. We appreciate your business and the confidence you have placed in us.

Feeding Hills Stop & Shop Raises \$1,173 For Food For Friends' Fundraising Program

within the state of Massachusetts.

The Food for Friends donations follow Stop & Shop's recent "Turkey Express" campaign which supplied local food banks with over 6,400 turkeys. In addition to these fundraising events and an annual food drive, the Food for Friends campaign produces a scan saver circular page available at Stop & Shop stores during the winter months. The scan saver program generates up to \$150,000 for The Second Harvest National Food Bank members in Stop & Shop's operating areas.

Stop & Shop customers can check their local stores for upcoming Food for Friends events. A three-week scan can program begins on March 21st and concludes with a one-day food drive on April 17th.

The Stop & Shop Supermarket Company, New England's largest supermarket company, operates 192 stores in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, and Rhode Island.

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Spotlight On Business - continued...



WILHELMINA BACKLUND



LEO R. SAGAN, JR.



ERIKA SHEEHAN

Westfield Bank Announces Recent Promotions

According to Westfield Bank President Donald A. Williams, three members of the Westfield Bank staff were recently promoted.

They are Erika Sheehan to Vice President, Wilhelmina Backlund to Assistant Vice President, and Leo R. Sagan, Jr. to Assistant Treasurer.

Erika Sheehan manages the Indirect Auto Lending Group. She interacts with area car dealers to provide car financing for their buyers. A Westfield resident, Erika has been with Westfield Bank since 1969. Starting as a teller, she has held numerous positions within the bank including Loan Officer. She is active with the Bankers Educational Forum.

Bruce H. Eger Has Now Joined Westfield Bank

Westfield Bank President Donald A. Williams is pleased to announce that **Bruce H. Eger** has joined the Commercial Banking Team as Vice President and Commercial Loan Officer.

In his current role, Mr. Eger will be responsible for developing new business relationships in downtown Springfield. To support his efforts, a new branch located on Main Street will be opening in the spring.

Prior to joining Westfield Bank, Mr. Eger worked at Fleet Bank for the past 25 years, holding a variety of positions in the Commercial Banking area. His most recent role was that of a team leader in the Business & Entrepreneurial Services group. "Eger's extensive experience in commercial banking, especially in the Greater Springfield area," notes Williams, "makes him a valuable resource for the bank and community."

Eger received a B.A. from City College of New York Baruch School of Business. He has attended the School of Commercial Lending at Babson College and the Williams College School of Banking.

Eger is on the Board of Directors of the Western Mass. Enterprise Fund, the Board of Springfield Technical Community College Foundation, and was a Corporator of the Fruitlands Museum in Harvard. Bruce resides in Springfield with his wife, Debbie, and their three children, Michael, Danny, and Jennifer.

Wilhelmina Backlund is the Compliance, Security and CRA Officer for the bank. She is responsible for ensuring that the bank complies with all banking regulations. Prior to assuming her current position in 1996, Ms. Backlund worked as a loan underwriter for the bank. She joined Westfield Bank in 1992. Prior to that, she worked for both BankBoston and SIS. Ms. Backlund resides in Springfield and is a member of the Western Mass. Mortgage Review Board.

Leo R. Sagan, Jr. is the Manager of the Accounting Department, a position he has held since 1980. In addition to managing the department, Mr. Sagan prepares financial reports and performs

various types of financial analysis functions. Mr. Sagan joined Westfield Bank in 1986. Active in numerous community activities such as the United Way and Arunah Hill Natural Science Center, Mr. Sagan resides in Southwick. He is a graduate of Boston University.

Westfield Bank is one of the largest locally owned community banks in the area. Headquartered in Westfield since 1853, the bank has branches in West Springfield, Agawam, Southwick, and East Longmeadow. A new location on Main Street in Downtown Springfield is slated to open in the spring.



BRUCE H. EGER

Westfield Bank Announces 1998's Financial Results

Westfield Bank President and CEO Donald A. Williams announced recently at the Bank's Annual Meeting the financial results for 1998.

He noted, "I am pleased to be able to report that 1998 was another successful year for Westfield Bank. Our results reflect the healthy economic climate as well as area businesses and consumers seeking a local community bank for their financial needs."

Total assets ended the year at \$582,550,241. An increase of \$33,142,915, or six percent from year-end 1997. Deposit growth continued. The bank ended 1998 with \$508,312,900 on deposit, an increase of five percent, or \$25,344,463.

Loan growth during the year continued to be strong. Real estate loans ended at \$309,412,773, reflecting a net growth of over \$4.0 million. Business loans grew \$8,976,046 ending at \$60,795,904. Consumer loans increased \$16,241,747, a 50 percent increase.

"Our overall financial performance was excellent," stated Williams, "resulting in net income of \$5,111,561."

Westfield Bank is one of the largest locally owned community banks in the area. Headquartered in Westfield since 1853, the bank has branches in West Springfield, Agawam, Southwick, and East Longmeadow. A new location on Main Street in Downtown Springfield is slated to open in the spring.

"Spotlight On Business" is a regular feature of The Agawam Advertiser News and is another reason why you turn our pages every week.

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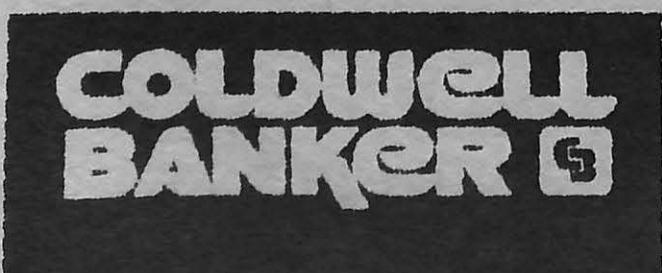
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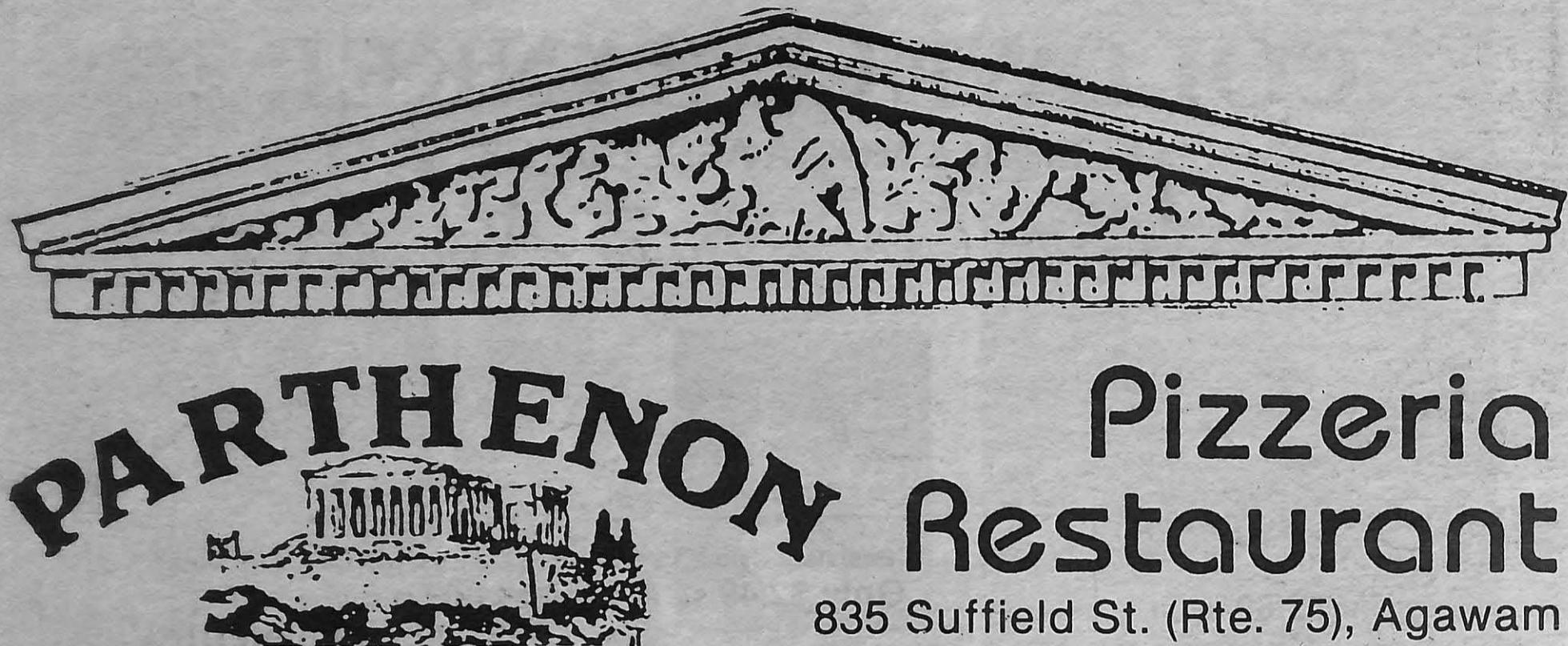
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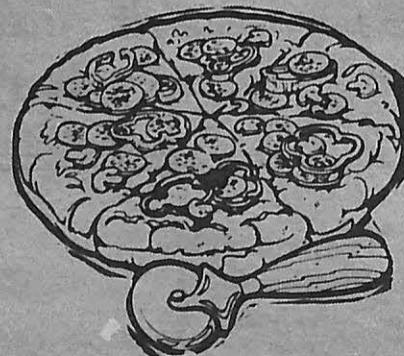
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For Your Health

Food for Thought

by Nancy Dell
Registered Dietician

Tea Time

Tea time may have a new meaning. New studies provide further evidence that tea may have a protective role in the fight against several types of cancer and may possess many disease-fighting qualities.

At the Second International Scientific Symposium on Tea and Human Health held on September 15, 1998 at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, leading international researchers presented the latest data on the role of tea in disease prevention.

The symposium was sponsored by the American Health Foundation, the American Cancer Society, the Nutrition Committee of the American Heart Association, and the Tea Council of the U.S.A.

Tea, the second most consumed beverage in the world, has an abundance of flavonoids. Researchers believe flavonoids are responsible for tea's health benefits. Some of these benefits include its protective role in reducing risk for some cancers (oral, digestive, lung, and colorectal), heart disease, and stroke. The flavonoids act as antioxidants, neutralizing free radicals that can harm cells and potentially contribute to these diseases.

At the September symposium, Ron Prior, Ph.D., USDA Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts University, presented research on the antioxidant capacity of tea. His research showed that the antioxidant activity in dry tea exceeds that of more than 22 fruits and vegetables.

When a black tea bag was placed in a cup of boiling water, Prior's team discovered that the antioxidants moved rapidly into the water, indicating that drinking just one cup of tea could make a significant contribution to one's total daily antioxidant intake.

It is important to note the brewing methods, such as steeping longer, may impact the final antioxidant level in the tea.

Nancy Dell, MS, is a registered dietitian in private practice in Feeding Hills and the media representative for the Massachusetts Dietetic Association. She can be reached at 850 Springfield St., Suite 4, Feeding Hills, MA 01030; (413) 786-2957.

* * *

Registered dietitian Nancy Dell's "Food for Thought" is a regular feature of The AAN's "For Your Health."

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Fitness Tips...

Incentives Work Wonders

by Carmela A. Kirk, RN
Fitness Director, Fitness First

For some folks, coming to the gym can be a task. (I can't imagine, but it's true.) Exercise is a great way to relieve stress, get in shape, lose those few unwanted pounds, and just stay healthy.

Sometimes it is hard to remember your goals. Sometimes it's hard to remember why you even decided to start this. Sometimes it's just plain hard. That is when incentives help. We use all sorts of incentives for members and staff to continue to strive to be their best.

An incentive is a good reason; it is a perk to push you that little bit farther. Our Children's Miracle Network weekend is coming. If you've been to the gym, you see the signs going up and pledge sheets hanging.

The CMN is a great incentive. Get your workout, even work a little harder than usual, and raise money for the hospital that will most likely care for the children in your life in case of an accident or illness. Who wouldn't want to join the fun for such a great cause?

This is where the incentive is important. Over and above that, even more than raising money for the kids, we give prizes!!! Most sweatiest, most colorful, loudest, and the list goes on. Wait, there's more — we even have a party Saturday night with an awesome raffle!!! (If you haven't been to a Fitness First party, try to come; we kind of have a fun-loving staff.)

Having this sort of thing helps break up your routine. On this day, you should challenge yourself a little more. If you usually spin for one hour, get pledges and spin for two hours. We go around with oranges and tell you how great you're doing. It feels great to work that extra push now and then.

If you do aerobics all week, grab a pledge sheet and see if you can complete four hours of cardio in the fitness room (you have the weekend to complete it). If you love the weights, try the aerobathon.

C'mon, be a CMN Champion — give your workout a little boost and raise some money for the kids.

— Best local news!!! —



Your Back And Your Health
by Dr. Joseph S. Schlaffer
Schlaffer Chiropractic Offices
192 Shoemaker Lane
Agawam

What Is "Real" Health???

Most patients that I see often confuse real health with the absence of symptoms. Health has nothing to do with how you feel, your temperature, or whether other symptoms are present.

Many of those who die of heart attacks, cancer, or dozens of other health problems suffer ill health long before their first symptom! A state of "dis-ease" usually exists long before the first signs of a problem.

Real health allows us to adapt to the environment, cooling us when we're hot, fighting a virus, healing a cut, digesting our food, and millions of other vital functions.

When there is interference to the complex controlling responsibility of the nerve system, improper function is the result. This state of improper coordination, if allowed to exist long enough, causes ill health, sickness, and disease.

Finally, the individual is alerted by the appearance of symptoms. He or she then attempts to restore health to their body, often by consuming varieties of medications.

The chiropractic approach to real health is to locate the interference to the nerve system and remove it. A common insult to our nerve systems is improper function in the spinal column. Segments of the spine often lose motion, choke, or irritate the spinal cord or nerve roots.

Locating these interferences is the primary role of your Doctor of Chiropractic. Correction of this cause often allows a return to proper function and renewed health. My hope is that seeking proper chiropractic care has not been delayed so long that deterioration has progressed beyond limitations of physical matter, making correction difficult or impossible!

Real health is not how you feel — it's how you function!

Those patients interested in a natural approach to health may call the SCHLAFFER CHIROPRACTIC OFFICE, located at 192 Shoemaker Lane in Agawam (telephone: 789-1369 or 789-1073).

Dr. Andrew E. Boraski announces a new associate...



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For Your Health - continued...



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by
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Wrist Problems

Wrist problems can be a common complaint with people who use their wrists often throughout the day. Carpal tunnel syndrome is a nerve problem (neuropathy) caused by compression and entrapment of the median nerve as it passes through the carpal tunnel in between the bones of the wrist.

This leads to a decrease in nerve transmission to and from the hand. Symptoms may include pain, numbness, tingling, aching, and loss of muscle strength and sensation in the first three fingers. Oftentimes, these symptoms are worse at night and can awaken the individual.

Carpal tunnel syndrome is more common in women than men, and is a common occurrence in occupations involving repetitive motions of the arms and hands. Hairdressers, people who work with computers, carpenters, child caretakers, painters, and even chiropractors are prone to carpal tunnel syndrome.

A vitamin B6 deficiency has been found in many patients with carpal tunnel syndrome. Treatment with B6 has been found to be helpful in many cases. My treatment for carpal tunnel syndrome includes manipulation of the wrist, deep soft-tissue mobilization of the muscles, and supportive ultrasound of the area.

We have found definite benefits with this treatment. Also, the environment where the individual works needs to be addressed. Is the computer keyboard too high or low? Sometimes the most subtle change can have many benefits. If you think you may have carpal tunnel syndrome, call our office today.

Dr. Nelson maintains an office at 850 Springfield St. in Feeding Hills. She can be reached at 786-4820.

Cancer Support Group To Meet At Mercy On Monday Evenings

Persons with cancer, their families, and friends are invited to attend Mercy Hospital's Cancer Support Group. Meetings are conducted Mondays, 7:00 p.m., in the Deliso Conference Center, and are free of charge.

The group offers information on topics of interest to cancer patients, and provides an opportunity to share experiences in a friendly, supportive atmosphere. Meetings are facilitated by Sr. Madeleine Joy, S.P., of Mercy's Pastoral Care Department.

For more information, call the Pastoral Care Department, (413) 748-9453.

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Support Groups, Courses, And Programs At Noble Hospital

SUPPORT GROUPS

Alcoholics Anonymous: Sunday evenings, 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. In Conference Room A at Noble Hospital, 115 West Silver Street, Westfield.

Free of charge. All are welcome.

Stroke Support Group: Wednesdays, March 10th and 24th, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. In the Bronson Rehabilitation Center Dining Room at Noble Hospital.

Free of charge and open to individuals recovering from a stroke, spouses, caregivers, and other interested persons.

On March 10th, the topic will be "Post-Stroke Depression." On March 24th, the topic will be "Adapted Leisure Activities."

Crohn's and Colitis: Tuesday, March 16th, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. In Conference Room A at Noble Hospital.

Free of charge and open to people with Crohn's or colitis and their support persons.

Claire Tatro, a Certified Hypnotherapist, will speak on "Coping Strategies and Stress Management Tactics."

Diabetes: Tuesday, March 23rd, 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. In Conference Room A at Noble Hospital.

Free of charge and open to individuals who have diabetes and their support persons.

Better Breathers: Wednesday, March 10th, 2:00 p.m. In the Third Floor Cardiopulmonary Classroom at Noble Hospital.

Free of charge and open to individuals with respiratory or pulmonary difficulties and their support persons.

Thomas A. Tremblay, R.R.T., C.P.F.T., will address "Stress and Relaxation for the Patient with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease."

Please call 572-5081 with any questions.

COURSES/PROGRAMS/CLINICS

Free Athletic Injury Clinic: Thursdays, March 4 and 18th, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. At Noble Hospital's Sports and Rehabilitation Center, 76 Main Street, Westfield.

On the first, third, and fifth Thursdays of every month, a certified athletic trainer will evaluate athletic injuries. Then, based upon the evalua-

tion, remedial exercises or physician referral may be recommended.

For an appointment, call 562-3522.

Sinus Problems - Diagnosing and Managing: Wednesday, March 10th, 6:00 p.m. In Conference Room A at Noble Hospital.

This lecture with R. Gopal Malladi, M.D., F.A.C.S., will be free of charge. However, seating is limited and advance registration is required.

To register, call Noble Hospital's HEALTH BEAT at (413) 568-2328.

Smoking Cessation - "Forgetting Cigarettes": Sundays, March 14th and 21st, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. In Conference Room B at Noble Hospital.

This two-part program with Joseph Barako, R.N., Certified Hypnotherapist, uses hypnosis to eliminate your desire for smoking and allows you to forget cigarettes forever.

The registration fee for this program is \$40 and is paid the evening of the first session. Seating is limited, and pre-registration is necessary.

To pre-register or for more information, call Noble Hospital's HEALTH BEAT at (413) 568-2328.

Cosmetic/Plastic Surgery with Dr. Gary Russolillo: Tuesday, March 16th, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. In Conference Room B at Noble Hospital.

Gary Russolillo, M.D., will present a lecture about Body Contouring, Surgeries, Lip Enhancements, Facial Surgeries, and Skin Care Procedures. Also included will be a live chemical peel demonstration.

The presentation will be followed by a complimentary personal consultation. Registration is free, and seating is limited.

Pre-registration is required. To register, call Noble Hospital's HEALTH BEAT at (413) 568-2328.

CPR Course: Wednesdays, March 17th and 24th, 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. In the Education Department/Ground Floor at Noble Hospital.

This two-part course provides American Heart Association Adult, Child, and Infant Certification. The cost of the course is \$45.

To register or obtain more information, call Noble Hospital's Education Department at (413) 572-5172.

Local Meetings Dealing With Mental Illness Issues

The Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Western Massachusetts, Inc. has announced the following groups which are free and open to the public.

For Those With Depression and Manic Depression-Westfield: 20 Broad Street, Westfield. Meets first and third Tuesdays of the month, 7:00 p.m.

For Adult Siblings and Adult Children of those with Mental Illness: AMI-WM Office, 717½ Main Street, Agawam. Meets second Tuesday of the month, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

For Adults with a Mentally Ill Relative-Agawam: Agawam Council on Aging, 68 Meadowbrook Manor, Agawam. Meets last Monday of the month, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Noble Hospital Seeking Volunteers

The Volunteer Services Department at Noble Hospital is looking for individuals interested in volunteering at the hospital. There are a variety of volunteer opportunities available, including the Coffee Shop Clerk, Gift Shop Clerk, Admitting Host/Hostess, etc.

Volunteering is a great way to stay active while meeting new people and helping your community. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering, please contact Melinda Partridge in the Volunteer Services Department at (413) 572-5030.

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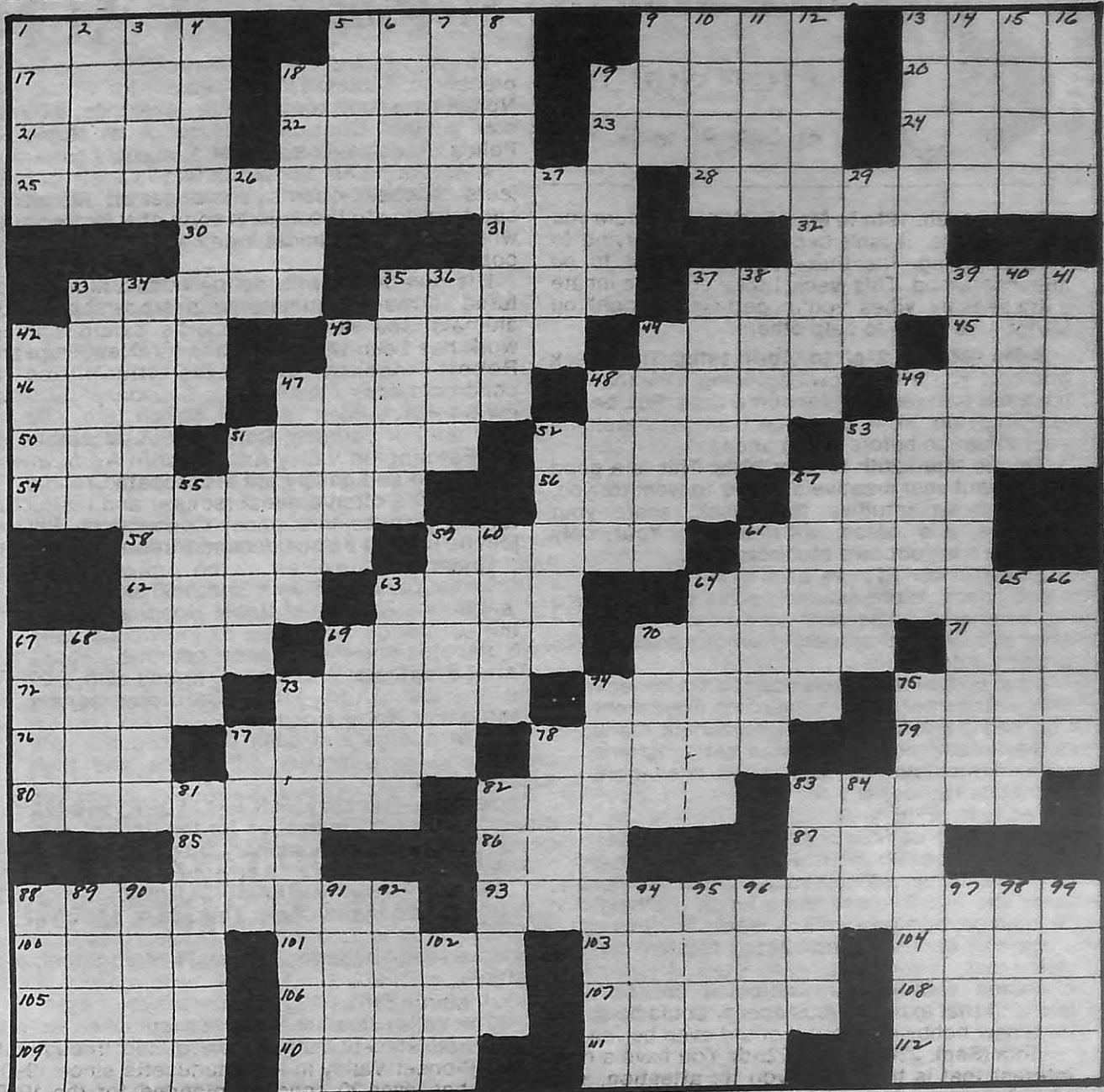
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HOME	IS	WHERE	THE HEART IS
ACORN	ARNE	AIR	RE
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Meet The Master - by Dick Mastroianni...



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A Weekly Look At Your Horoscope

by Dale Platenik

Pisces (Feb. 19th to March 20th): By nature you are secretive. It isn't because you are trying to hide anything, it's that you don't want to be misunderstood. This week, however, those innate extra-sensory vibes you're getting are right on target. Use them to help others.

Aries (March 21st to April 19th): This week presents you with a new beginning. One that you have been waiting for for some time. But, before jumping right in, it would be best to re-evaluate your situation before going ahead.

Taurus (April 20th to May 20th): This is a good time to put your creative abilities to work for you. You're quite intuitive this week, share your thoughts and ideas with others. Your only drawback is your own stubbornness.

Gemini (May 21st to June 20th): You've been wanting to explore new fields of knowledge and try your hand at something different. Use your talents to open the doors of your choice. Inner-growth is highlighted.

Cancer (June 21st to July 22nd): You're feeling a little introverted, and that's not going to change this week. You will be thrust into the limelight, however, and you won't have much time to be alone. Try and be sympathetic towards others. It'll make you feel better, too.

Leo (July 23rd to Aug. 22nd): This week, Leo, you want to break out of all the things you feel are restricting you. You want to escape to something new and different. Try to keep balance in your life. Turn your attention towards helping others and then do something wild and wacky for yourself.

Virgo (Aug. 23rd to Sept. 22nd): You feel restless this week, Virgo. You may even contemplate changing your job or workplace environment. Some of that extra nervous energy could be spent on a new hobby or sport. It could even be fun.

Libra (Sept. 23rd to Oct. 22nd): You have a new interest that is tugging at you for attention. You also have nagging responsibilities that vie for your time. So, don't get your scales in a huff. With a little planning, you can have it all.

Scorpio (Oct. 23rd to Nov. 21st): This week you are very perceptive. You believe you can overcome all the obstacles in your way. You can, with some self-discipline. This is a good time for you to release those intense feelings you have and do something good for yourself.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22nd to Dec. 21st): There is something that doesn't feel quite right, this week. You are very intuitive now and in-touch with your inner being. This is a good time for you to change those things you've been wanting to be different.

Capricorn (Dec. 22nd to Jan. 19th): The thing you have been working so hard for is going to pay off this week, Capricorn. People are going to notice you for the persistent, clever, intelligent person you are. This isn't a time to feel hesitant. Accept your accolades smilingly.

Aquarius (Jan. 20th to Feb. 18th): You are the world-view humanitarian of the zodiac, Aquarius, but this week you will need to narrow the scope of your vision. It's time to bring it down to the home arena. Those around you need your compassion and support.

(Editor's note: Dale Platenik of Holyoke has been an astrologer for 19 years, has taught it and related subjects, and works as a counselor in the field. She does individual Astrology charts based on the time, place, and date of birth. Charts can be natal, progressed, for couple's comparison, or used for business. She can be reached at 539-5934.)

Our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon; however, we appreciate any articles, press releases, etc., that can be brought in on Mondays. Thank you!

Agawam Community Artists To Hold Next Meeting On March 1st

The Agawam Community Artists are pleased to present watercolorist and illustrator Robert A. Noreika on Monday evening, March 1st at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room of the Agawam Police Station, 681 Springfield Street, Agawam.

A natural talent to paint a wide variety of subjects matches Robert's passion for art. His works can take you to the water's edge of New England, where you can almost smell the sea air in his coastal scenes.

His love affair with nature is beautifully captured through intimate woodland scenes of animals and streams. Robert's award-winning work has been widely exhibited in New England. Robert recently completed illustrating a children's book, "A Moon for Seasons," for Macmillan Publishing.

When not painting, Robert teaches classes in the Farmington Valley Art Center in Avon, where his studio and gallery are also located.

Robert is often a guest lecturer and instructor for art leagues throughout Connecticut. Please join us for this unique demonstration and lecture.

Under the auspices of the Agawam Cultural Council, meetings and demonstrations of the Agawam Community Artists are free and open to the public.

For additional information regarding the Agawam Community Artists or any of the artists that have been featured in our schedule of monthly programs, please contact Florida Tangocci at 736-3689.

Valley Jazz Ensemble To Perform At Middle School On March 5th

The Valley Jazz Ensemble will "swing" into the Agawam Middle School for a performance on Friday, March 5th at 7:30 p.m.

The Valley Jazz Ensemble is a unique community establishment that has performed throughout the Pioneer Valley in Massachusetts since 1990, and has over 20 concerts planned for the 1999 season.

Some recent performances include Celebrate Holyoke, the Taste of Northampton, the Great New England Brewers Festival, and the Paradise City Arts Festival.

The Valley Jazz Festival showcases local musicians and has a large repertoire of standards, modern jazz classics, and original compositions. The ensemble features a complete rhythm section, vocals, and a wind complement. All of the musical arrangements are original and were specially written for the band.

Parking will be available in the rear of the school. This program is free and open to the public, and is being presented by the Agawam Cultural Council with funding provided by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Riverside To Hold Auditions For Summer 1999 Performers

Aspiring actors and actresses will have a chance to shine this summer. Riverside Park of Agawam is announcing entertainment auditions for the 1999 summer season. A new entertainment package is part of the park's expansion plans.

The Park expects to cast more than two dozen performers in a variety of roles. Positions include singers, musicians, dancers, character actors, mascots, jugglers, and clowns.

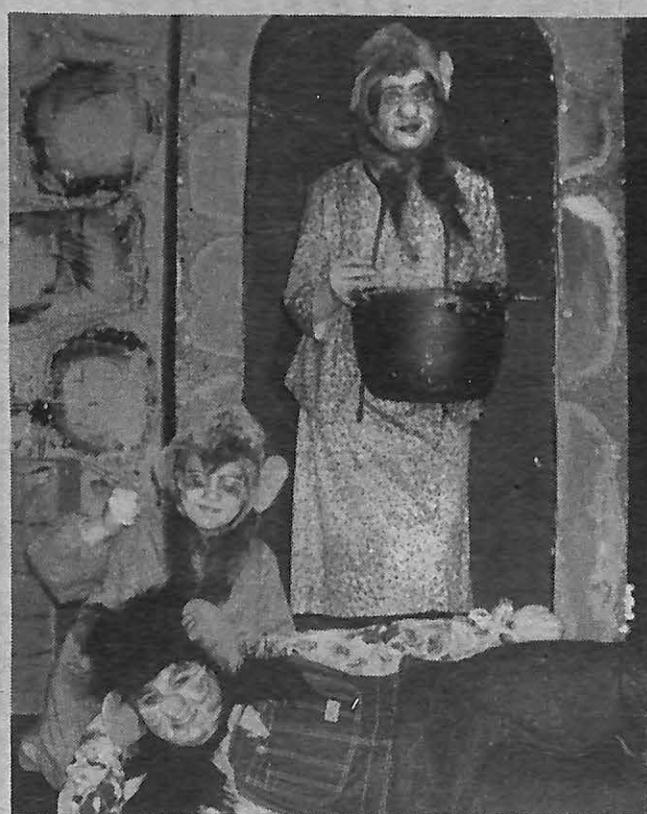
"We have a brand new theatre opening that will feature a lot of 50's-style entertainment. We're eager to fill these positions with members of the local performing arts community," said Peter Shannon, Entertainment Manager.

Auditions will be held at the Best Western Hotel in Springfield on February 27th at 11:00 a.m. Dancers should be prepared to dance and possibly sing and singers prepared to sing and perform a short movement audition. Character actors, jugglers, and clowns should prepare a two-minute humorous monologue or routine. Performers must be at least 16 years-old. For more information, call the Audition Hotline at (413) 786-9300, ext. 3322.

* * *

Check our classified ads in each edition...

Local "Trolls"...



RACHAEL NISENKIER of Springfield (standing), Sarah Vasicek of Westfield, and Frankie Roda of Agawam were dressed as trolls in STAGE Children's Theatre winter vacation production of "Runtlin's Rescue." The next STAGE production at The Red Door Theatre in Feeding Hills will be "Heart of Ice" (March 12th-14th). For tickets and more information, call (413) 789-2026.

Crafters Sought For Jr. Women's Arts Fair

Crafters are sought for the Agawam Junior Women's Club's 25th Annual Arts & Crafts Fair, which is scheduled for Saturday, June 5th, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Fair will be held on the grounds of the Captain Charles Leonard House at 663 Main Street in Agawam. All types of artisans and crafters are invited to participate in this event. The show will be juried and feature approximately 80 to 90 exhibitors.

Admission is free, and all proceeds benefit the Agawam Junior Women's Club Scholarship Fund. Tours of the historic Captain Charles Leonard House will be available. A Youth Art Exhibit will be on display as well.

The size of each space will be 12' x 12', and a showing fee of \$45 will be due at time of application. A food concession will also be available during the day for your convenience.

For more information or an application, please call Paula at (413) 786-0511 or Theresa at (413) 786-6515.

Happy Sweet 16, Nic!



*Love Always,
Mom, Dad, & Mark*



Education

Agawam Schools' Weekly Lunch Menu

Monday, March 1st: Cheese-topped pizza, tossed garden salad with spinach greens and creamy dressing, chilled mixed fruit cup, milk.

Tuesday, March 2nd: "Dr. Seuss' Birthday"—Oven-baked ham and pineapple sauce, broccoli and pasta blend, dinner roll, chilled fruit cup or white cake with green icing, milk.

Wednesday, March 3rd: Oven-baked chicken nuggets, honey or dipping sauce, seasoned carrots, whipped potatoes, bread and butter, apple slices with cinnamon sugar topping, milk.

Thursday, March 4th: Taco boat with cheese topping, country mix vegetables (beans, carrots, corn), rosy apple sauce, chocolate brownie with walnut pieces, milk.

Friday, March 5th: Grilled cheese sandwich, pickle chips, oven potato rounds with catsup, chilled fruit cup or ice cream cup, milk.

(Tickets may be purchased on Monday in the elementary schools for the week. Meal price is \$1.10 daily. If paying by check, make check out to "Agawam School Lunch.")

Agawam/Feeding Hills Students Achieve Honors At MacDuffie

The MacDuffie School announces that the following Agawam/Feeding Hills students have achieved honors during the first semester of the 1998/1999 academic year:

High Honors

Sophomore: Stephanie Goyette and Melody Serafino of Feeding Hills.

Freshmen: Jennifer Dobise of Feeding Hills.

High Honors are achieved with a GPA of 88.0 with no grade lower than a B in a year-long course and no grade lower than a B- in a semester course.

Honors

Seventh Grade: Kathleen Ratkiewicz of Agawam.

Honors are achieved with a GPA of 82.0 with no grade lower than a B- in a year-long course and no grade lower than a C-plus in a semester course.

Effort Honor Roll

Seniors: Amber Hoffman and Feeding Hills.

Freshmen: Nicole DeCesare, Peter Forastiere, and Matthew Zajdel of Agawam.

Effort Honor Roll is achieved by those students not previously mentioned who have effort grades of one or two in all of their academic courses.

The MacDuffie School, established in 1890, is an independent, co-educational day school focusing on college-preparatory education for students in grades six through 12.

Shelley Rose Of AHS To Be Honored By D.A.R. On March 2nd

Agawam High School student Shelley Rose was among area students named 1999 Good Citizen Winners by Mercy Warren Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution and will be recognized at a special meeting on Tuesday, March 2nd.

This event, the highlight of the Chapter's year, will meet at the Faith United Church, 52 Sumner Ave., Springfield. A light reception served at 12:15 p.m. by the Betsy Ross Club will precede the meeting.

All winners were chosen by the faculty and senior class members of each of their 20 respective local high schools. They will receive a certificate and a medal and the winner of this group will receive a \$100 U.S. bond and his or her essay will be forwarded to the state level competition.

Mrs. David R. Cahill, Chairman of the Good Citizens Program will conduct the meeting and make the awards.



THANKS TO THEIR EFFORTS, the sixth-grade students of Phyllis Ferrari at Agawam Middle School recently raised \$802 for the Agawam Fire Department's thermal imaging unit. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Continuing A Tradition Of Donating To Good Causes...

Sixth-Graders Raise Funds For Fire Department's Thermal Imaging Unit

by Kathy Shepard
AAN Feature Writer

The sixth-graders in Phyllis Ferrari's class at the Agawam Middle School have contributed to good causes before. In other years, Ms. Ferrari would ask the students to contribute the amount they would have spent on a Christmas gift. The monies collected would go to the Toy for Joy Fund. The class would enjoy a party and a video, with refreshments contributed by parents.

This year, Ms. Ferrari's class still had a video and a party, but the fundraising efforts are earmarked for a different purpose: a contribution toward the purchase of a thermal imaging system for the Town of Agawam's Fire Department.

A Springfield fire took the lives of two people Ms. Ferrari knew since her childhood. Around the same time, she saw an article in *The Agawam Advertiser News* about the efforts by the Agawam Junior Women's Club to raise money for a thermal imaging unit, a device patterned after Gulf War technology, which gives vision in the dark. In war, this device reveals the presence of an enemy, but when turned to a slightly different kind of cause, it allows a firefighter involved in search and rescue to locate victims in the thick, dark smoke of a fire.

Camera-Like System

The camera-like system allows a firefighter to find people and pets in smoke-filled buildings, even if the victims have been overcome by smoke inhalation. Heat causes the victim to show up as a white object. Research on various brands has suggested a Bullard hand-held unit for Agawam.

The job of search and rescue in smoke-filled buildings has necessitated that firefighters literally fall to their hands and knees and crawl in virtual pitch-blackness to find children, elderly, pets, or anyone else who has fallen helpless inside a raging fire. What few people realize is that firefighters have always done this *totally without vision!*

The darkness and hazy smoke, made worse by carbon monoxide or other gasses, eliminate any human being's ability to see anything under the heavy smoke. The thermal imaging system provides a view of whiteness from heat given off from living forms. On a television segment devoted to these breakthroughs in technology, several of the

firefighters called these units "the difference between life and death."

Ms. Ferrari discussed safety measures with her class, such as never opening a door that's extremely hot in a fire and having a safe route of exit and a place to meet outside. When she brought up the subject of the thermal imaging system, student Tim Sherry suggested that they use the funds they would raise this year toward this important safety device.

The remainder of the class enthusiastically agreed, talking excitedly on the subject, asking, "Please, couldn't we use the money for that?" until the idea began to expand into asking the entire sixth-grade to contribute as well. The rest of the class concurred, and before they all knew it, they had raised \$802 for the thermal imaging system!

The West Springfield Fire Department has two of these thermal imaging systems. Departments that have owned the units find new uses for them as they become familiar with them, indicating that there are many applications.

The unit can help find the origin of a fire, can determine how full a barrel of hazardous material might be, and detects living beings trapped in a fire. The benefits of this technology make such a system priceless.

The device costs \$22,000, but that has not stopped the sixth-graders or their teacher. These people immediately realized the importance and urgency of obtaining the apparatus for the town. They also plan to raise money through other efforts, such as bottle redemption, taking up other collections, or both. The community spirit of the sixth-graders, Ms. Ferrari, and the Middle School administration do us proud.

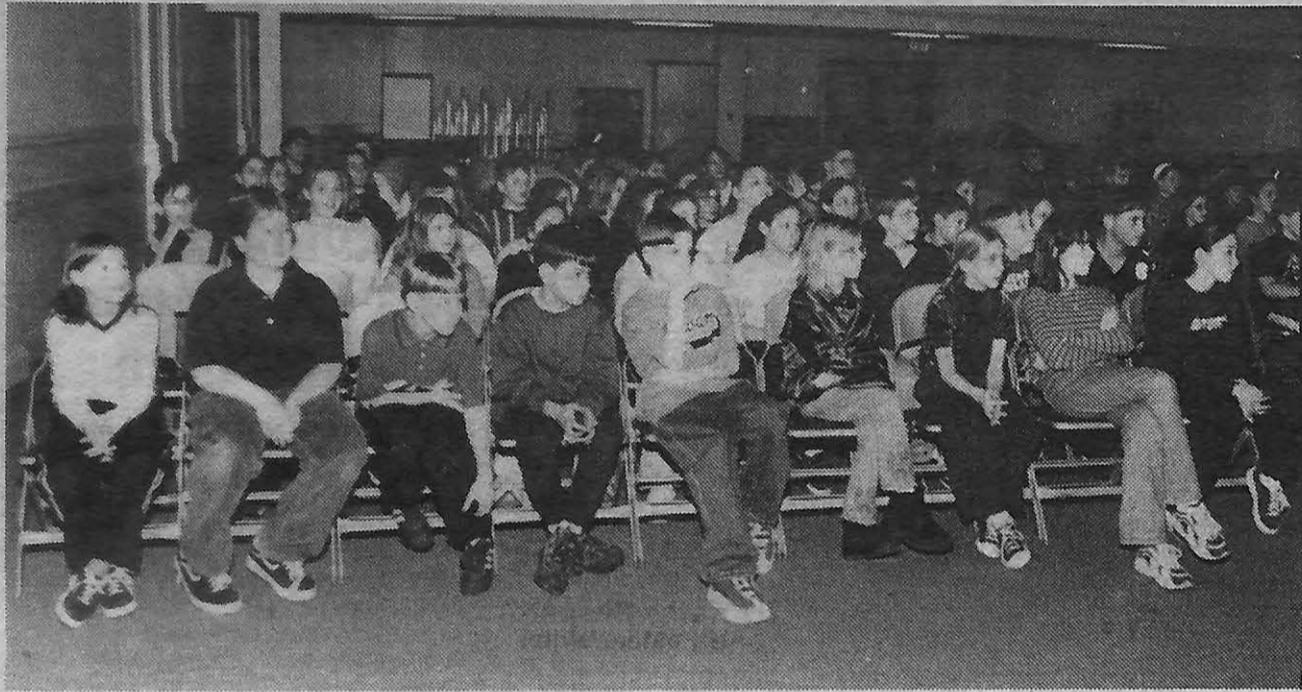
Deputy Fire Chief Steve Martin praised the students for their awareness of the importance of such firefighting equipment, and he is pleased with the results of all efforts to raise the funds for this device.

"I'm delighted that the community is responding and that the students are involved in something that will have a definite impact on the Fire Department and the safety of the people in this community," Martin affirmed.

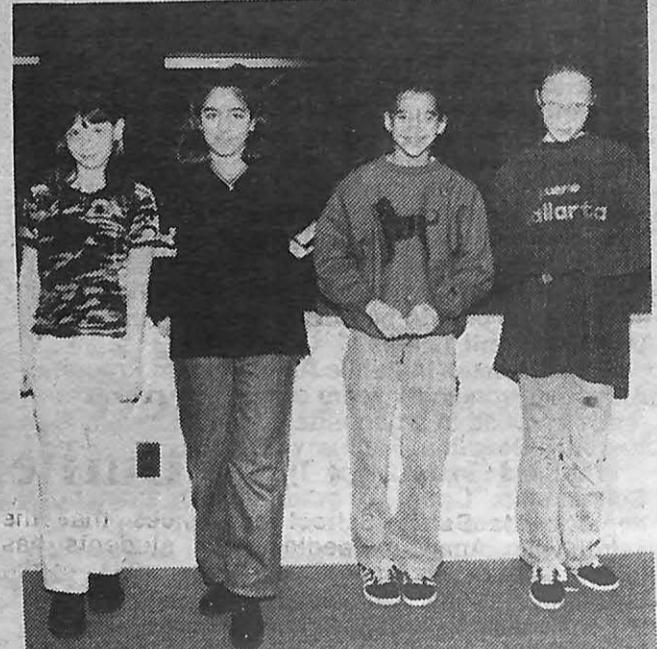
For copies of his photos in this edition, please call AAN photographer Jack Devine at 789-0053; he has all the negatives and will glad to help you.



THE FIFTH-GRADE AND SIXTH-GRADE "Accelerated Readers" at Agawam Middle School (pictured above and below) recently enjoyed a program by Keith Johnson entitled "Science Isn't Always Pretty." Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



KEITH JOHNSON, whose program at Agawam Middle School demonstrated the "fun" aspects of science. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



THE HIGH-SCORING "Accelerated Readers": fifth-graders Erica Sullivan, Christina Graziano, Ashley Weisse, and sixth-grader Sonja Jedziniak. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Special Assembly Held For Middle School's Accelerated Readers

On February 10th, 195 fifth-graders and 120 sixth-graders at the Agawam Middle School attended a special assembly to celebrate their performance in the Accelerated Reader Program. To attend, fifth-graders had to earn 10 or more ACR points, and sixth-graders had to earn 15 or more points.

Keith Johnson presented a program entitled "Science Isn't Always Pretty." His outrageous demonstrations showed that exploring scientific principles is fun, especially when it's a little messy (like the green slime he made). During the show, Johnson explained that he taught himself science from books he found at the library, and he urged students to do the same.

Before the performance, Miss Bouchie, the school's librarian, presented books to those students who earned 50 to 100 points.

Fifth-graders receiving books were: Allison Dassatti, Erica Sullivan, Christina Graziano, Erika Prouty, Svetlana Surzhukov, Nicholas Dimaio, Ashley Weisse, Mike Demos, Alex Friedrich, Elizabeth Heaton, Mike Longhi, Sarah MacFadzen, Daniel Nawskon, Egypt Robinson, Michael Suchenicz, Ashley Weir, Nicole Cirillo, Angela Virella, Mari Weinardy, Ally Bertagnolli, Joe Greaney, Lindsie Lavin, and Luca Mineo.

Sixth-graders who received books were: Alyssa Zmaczynski, Kevin Clark, Katie Tapply, Katie Gorman, Mary Lou Gottardi, Stephanie Klebes, Andrew Menard, Sarah Rollins, Jennifer Bock, Emily Gordon, Noelle Serafino, and Sonja Jedziniak.

Three fifth-graders earned special prizes for earning over 100 points. The three girls were: Erica Sullivan (103.3 points), Christina Graziano (137.4 points), and Ashley Weisse (163.8 points). Sonja Jedziniak was presented with an ACR mini-boombox for earning an amazing 204.2 points.

A total of 5,457.2 points was earned by the fifth-graders for the first half of the year, and 4,203.4 points were earned by the sixth-graders. With 1,051 points, Mrs. Friedman's fifth-grade class not only earned the most points in the fifth grade, but led the whole school in points. Mrs. Gaylor's room earned the most points for the sixth grade (825.7).

The Accelerated Reader Program is supported and funded by the Agawam Middle School PTO.

For all the school-oriented news in Agawam, you turn our pages...

* * *

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Agawam High School Guidance News

College Acceptances: Congratulations!

Mario Santillo: Northeastern University
Robert Santaniello: University of Rhode Island
Erin Rescigno: University of Southern Maine, Endicott College, Rivier College, Keene State
Melissa Williams: Westfield State College
Sarah Ryder: Worcester State College
Aaron Skowrya: Quinnipiac College
Erin Hanley: Framingham State College, Westfield State College, University of Massachusetts
Joni Brodeur: University of Rhode Island
Yuri Lukin: University of Massachusetts
Alison Jackobek: Western New England College, Plymouth State College, Russell Sage College
Andrew Radwanski: Western New England College, Westfield State College
Andrea Cizek: Bridgewater State College
Jen Loomis: Western New England College
Kornelia Moysis: Assumption College
Shaunessy Egan: Bridgewater State College, Wheelock College
Danielle Bourdeau: Bridgewater State College
Martha Manning: Elms College
Bridget Donovan: Holyoke Community College
Charlene Duquette: Holyoke Community College, Springfield Technical Community College
Justin Kratovil: Fitchburg State College
Stephanie Prout: Holyoke Community College, American International College
Leila Mouneimneh: Suffolk University
Military: Congratulations!
Gary LaMothe: Air Force
Scholarships: See your counselor for more information or an application.

Pirandello Lyceum Scholarship: This scholarship is available to college-bound seniors with high academic averages, high SAT scores, who have been actively involved in extracurricular activities and who have studied or who plan to study Italian. **Deadline:** April 15, 1999.

Valley Press Club Scholarship: Four \$1,000 awards will be made to qualified high school seniors who plan to pursue a major in journalism. **Deadline:** April 1, 1999.

Young Women in Public Affairs Award Program: All young women 21 years of age or younger currently enrolled in a secondary school are eligible to apply. **Deadline:** February 25, 1999.

Westfield Post 124 of The American Legion Scholarship: Open to graduating high school seniors who plan to attend an accredited post-secondary school and whose parent or guardian is a member of American Legion Post 124. **Deadline:** April 23, 1999.

Tomorrow's Teachers Scholarship Program: To be eligible to apply for this scholarship, a student must commit to teaching in Massachusetts public schools for four years, graduate in the top 25 percent of the graduating class, plan to enroll in a Mass. Department of Education certified teaching program, be a permanent resident of Massachusetts, and maintain a 3.0 grade point average while in college. **Deadline:** April 30, 1999.

John A. Davison Is A Presidential Scholar At Clarkson

John A. Davison of Feeding Hills, the son of Ms. Anna Davison of 9 Halladay Drive in Feeding Hills and a senior computer science major has been named a Presidential Scholar for the fall 1998 semester at Clarkson University.

Presidential Scholars must achieve a minimum 3.80 grade-point average (GPA) and carry at least 14 credit hours.

Clarkson University is an independent institution located in northern New York, in the foothills of the Adirondack Mountains. The University has 2,749 graduate and undergraduate students enrolled in its schools of Business, Engineering, Liberal Arts, and Science. Clarkson is on the World Wide Web at <http://www.clarkson.edu>.

Agawam Jr. High To Conduct Spring Parents' Night

The Agawam Junior High School will conduct its annual Spring Parents' Night on Monday evening, March 8th from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

All parents of seventh and eighth grade students are welcome to attend the annual conference night, which features brief meetings with teachers and staff members. Classroom secretaries will schedule five-minute appointments with individual teachers that evening.

The Spring Parents' Night is an excellent opportunity for parents to visit the school where they may review their child's academic progress.

Who Will Take Care Of The Caretaker?

by Judy Cohen
Agawam High School
Guidance Counselor

I saw Karen in the hallway. There she was, deep in conversation with her arm around Ginny, who was clearly upset. Karen was doing her usual thing - reaching out to someone, listening to her and helping smooth her ruffled feathers.

A few days passed. Again, I saw Karen. She was collecting information for someone. Again, she was in the helping mode and she was helping with a smile on her face and a sprightliness to her step.

Later, Karen came into my office. We talked a little about her home life. I ascertained that she is the oldest of four. Mom is a single mom and Karen often takes care of her younger brothers and sisters. Because she is the oldest, she is often called upon to do household duties and work outside of the home. Not a complainer, Karen has accepted these roles. At times, when Mom has come home upset with work and life in general, it is Karen to whom she turns.

In school, Karen is very involved and does everything to perfection. Praised by her peers and teachers, Karen seemingly has it all, or does she?

In psychobabble, Karen is the hero of the family, the "do-gooder," the achiever, the person to whom family and friends turn when there's a favor to ask or a problem to share. Yet, let's really take a good look at our hero.

During the day, Karen develops headaches. From time to time, her stomach becomes upset. Looking at her hands, one can see that her cuticles are ragged. Does she pick at them? If Karen does not receive an A, she is in to see the teacher to see how to improve. She dwells on her

low grade and really pushes to do better. When one really looks at all of this, it is apparent that Karen is a caretaker who needs some caretaking herself.

It's hard to always be so perfect; it's hard to always be there for others; it's hard to always give and not receive. Yet, one may ask, why does she not complain? Well, verbally she's not complaining, but her body certainly is feeling the affects of her constant need to be so perfect.

Karen, like so many other heroes, is so intent on being so perfect that she never has time to take a breath and figure out if she is having fun yet. Being perfect has become her identity, so to keep herself intact as Karen, she must continue to excel.

What will happen? One day, she may just get really depressed, tired, and burned out. Physical ailments may become worse. Many heroes become anorexic; they can't control getting perfect grades all the time, but they can control what they eat.

And always being in control is key to the "hero." Hopefully, when she will hurt enough, she will recognize that hurt and seek help. Or, maybe a friend, sibling, or parent will recognize her physical signs for what they are...manifestations of stress...and someone will reach out to be her caretaker.

Someone will give her license to make a mistake, to not be so hard on herself, to receive as well as to give. Someone will realize that he/she has to take care of the caretaker.

Free Seminar On Women's Continuing Ed. At Bay Path

The Office of Continuing Education at Bay Path College will hold a free information session for women interested in furthering their education on Saturday, March 6th at 10:00 a.m. in the Occupational Therapy Laboratory in Elliott House, on the Longmeadow campus.

Participants will have the opportunity to meet Professor Lynda Bishop, Director of the College's Occupational Therapy Assistant Program, talk to current students enrolled in the occupational therapy programs, view the well-equipped laboratory site, and meet with financial aid representatives. All new continuing education students receive half-off tuition for their first two courses.

Women interested in attending the March 6th session should contact Carol Dunlop, director of continuing education, at the college at 413-565-1332, or toll free at 1-800-782-7284.

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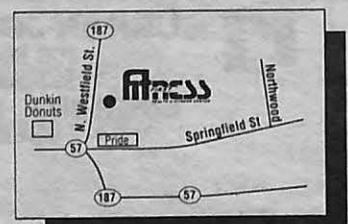
Please ask about our special rates for individual memberships.

Hurry in...Offer must be activated by March 17, 1999. *Monthly dues apply.



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Eagle Project Serves Veterans Of Holyoke Soldiers' Home

Eric Hogan of Boy Scout Troop 78 of the Springfield Turnverein in Agawam selected the Holyoke Soldiers' Home for his Eagle Project. After learning about the care his grandfather and the other veterans received from the facility, he knew what he wanted to do.

The Holyoke Soldiers' Home sits on the top of Cherry Street in Holyoke and can easily be seen from Route 91. It is a Massachusetts state-funded veterans' hospital that provides everything from full-service in-patient medical care to out-patient treatment for military veterans who served our country during times of war.

Although most of the current patients are World War II veterans, they have patients that served in Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, and five that served during World War I. Along with medical treatment, the veterans of the Home are entertained with social times, snacks, movies, and parties in the canteen, as well as bus tours to various places.

On Tuesday, December 29th, and Wednesday, December 30th, Eric led his fellow scouts in providing two days of service to the Holyoke Soldiers' Home at the start of his Eagle Project. The scouts helped bring them in and out of the canteen, served them coffee and snacks, and spent time talking and playing cards with the occupants.

After lunch, the scouts split up. One group put the first coat of paint on the walls of a room used to provide medical treatment, and the others helped bring patients back to the canteen for a movie.

On Wednesday, the scouts finished the work on the treatment room with a second coat of paint, put a first coat on a bedroom ward being refinished, and cleaned up the maintenance area. In the afternoon, the scouts had the opportunity to help with a 102nd birthday party for a World War I veteran. Many of the veterans attended.

The staff was pleased with the help they received getting the patients to and from the party. Some of the boys met the guest of honor personally and were lucky enough to sit at the table with him during the concert and talk with him. At the end of the concert, the Boy Scout Troop assembled at his table and sang "Happy Birthday."

On January 24th and February 14th, Eric led the scouts back to the Soldiers' Home for follow-up social visits with the veterans in completion of his project.

The staff was pleased with the work the scouts had accomplished and with the enjoyment they gave to the veterans. To the scouts, it was both a fun and educational experience. Eric was happy with the turnout he received from the troop, the comments from the veterans and the staff, and all that had been accomplished.

Troop 78 plans to accept the offer made to them by the Soldiers' Home and looks forward to returning for periodic social visits.



PICTURED ABOVE: Members of Boy Scout Troop 78 who helped with the Eagle Project at the Holyoke Soldiers' Home on December 29th. AT LEFT: Eric Hogan with Maureen Perkins of the Holyoke Soldiers' Home.

AHS Band To Present Annual Scholarship Concert On March 2nd

The Agawam High School Band will present its annual scholarship concert on Tuesday, March 2nd, at 7:00 p.m. in the High School auditorium.

The event will feature a symphonic band repertoire, solo performances, jazz music, and sneak previews of this year's indoor guard and percussion shows.

Admission to this scholarship concert is \$5 (however, senior citizens are free). The proceeds from this concert will be used to fund four scholarships for high school seniors.

The scholarship is given each year in memory of Lisa Ziegert, who was the drum major of the Marching Mohawks.

Best local news - AAN!

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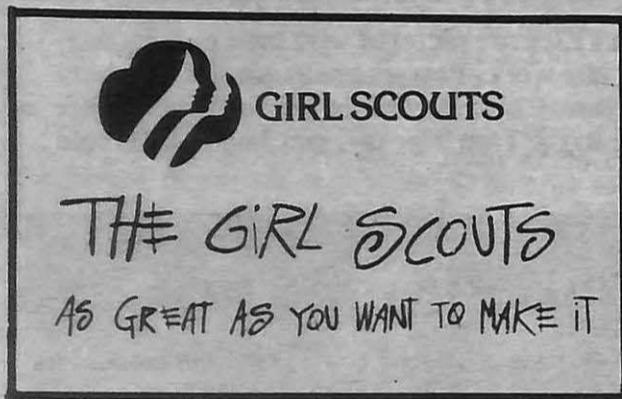
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At The Investiture & Rededication Ceremony



THE BROWNIE TROOP 540 Investiture and Rededication Ceremony was held on Tuesday, January 26th, at 4:30 p.m. in the James Clark School cafeteria. All the girls participated in a Brownie play before being pinned or renewing vows. Last row: Sara Jensen, Angela Sarnelli, Ericka Lynch, and Amanda Derose. Middle row: Brandi North, Angela Rosati, Nikki Baker, Caitlan Frazier, Melissa Marsh, and Desiree Certer. Front row: Kimberly DeCoteau, Brianna Janicki, Colleen O'Connor, and Katelyn Foster.



Troop 552 Has Had A Busy Year!

Troop 552 began its first meeting on October 14th. They planned a Halloween party, which they celebrated with Brownie Troop 559. There were games and prizes to be shared, and a piñata which the girls enjoyed (thanks to the generosity of the Agawam McDonald's, which supplied the candy for this).

On December 16th, they had a Christmas party, where pizza and gifts were enjoyed by all. A Christmas craft of sweatshirts and t-shirts were made.

This January, they went on their first field trip to Games and Lanes.

On February 3rd, they had a Rededication Ceremony where Leah Marsh, Kayla Goehlert, and Ariana Galdanez were rededicated as Junior Girl Scouts. At the same time, an Investiture Ceremony was held for Brianne Sacco, Kaitlyn Moriarty, and Nicole Diduk.

All the girls received the Girl Scout Pin, the World Trefoil Pin, and the two badges which they had worked very hard on since October. The girls performed a play that they made up for their parents and Brownie Troop 559. A good time was had by all.

These girls are having so much fun this year and are truly excited about what is coming up next. Stay tuned!

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March 2nd Mtg. To Discuss NYC Trip

The final planning meeting for students who are going on the New York/Washington DC/Philadelphia trip during school vacation is planned for **Tuesday, March 2nd at 7:00 p.m. in the Agawam Middle School cafeteria.**

All the travelers and their parents should attend this meeting. Final arrangements and decisions need to be made in regards to rooming, meal choices, hat color, etc.

Information on what to expect and what you should pack will also be discussed.

Candy money and final payments are due this month. If you have any questions regarding amounts owed, just give me a call at 786-9896 in the evening.

Kindergarten Info. Night For Parents Slated At Robinson

In preparation for Agawam's Kindergarten Registration, a Parent Information Night will be held on Thursday, March 18, 1999 at 7:00 p.m. at Robinson Park School.

Parents of all children entering kindergarten in September 1999 are invited to attend. The program will be to answer questions parents might have in regard to their child entering school in September.

Children who will be five (5) years of age prior to October 1, 1999 are eligible for enrollment in kindergarten in September.

— Best local news!!! —

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Granger Valentines...



MRS. MORASSI'S INTEGRATED KINDERGARTEN CLASS from Granger School was recently treated to a wonderful surprise at the Feeding Hills Post Office. In the Mail Center of their classroom, each child handmade a Valentine for their family, and on February 11th the class walked to the Post Office to mail them. At the Post Office, they were given a behind-the-scene tour, a delicious snack, and a coloring book. Each child put on the correct postage and hand-cancelled their own mail. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Cheri McCurdy Graduates From Porter And Chester

Congratulations to Cheri McCurdy (Medical Assisting) of Feeding Hills on her graduation from Porter and Chester Institute in Chicopee.

The graduation of 82 students took place at The Oaks in Agawam with attendance of 450 friends and family.

Porter and Chester Institute was founded in 1946. The institute offers six schools of study, including Office Technology Division, Architectural and Engineering Technology, Automotive Technology, Electronics and Computer Division, HVACR (Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration) Division, and Medical Assisting.

Porter and Chester proudly acknowledges that around 90 percent of their graduates land jobs that match the training they received prior to graduation.

ADVERTISER NEWS



Sports

Brownies Rewarded With Top Seed In Div. I Girls' Tourney

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

Agawam High, sporting an 18-1 record, has the top seed in the upcoming Western Mass. Division I girls' basketball tournament. But that doesn't mean they are home free. They beat second-seeded Minnechaug Regional, the two-time defending state champions twice this year (44-37 there and 52-39 at Kibbe Gym). The Falcons might be without All-American Jill Danker (now a standout freshman at Vanderbilt), but they have weapons in the form of 5'9" Melissa Kowalski and 6'4" Maureen Leahy. They also have a coach (Dave Yelle) who gets everything out of his athletes.

The reason the Falcons will be dangerous is because they've been there. It's an ego trip.

Surprisingly, East Longmeadow, from the Suburban League, is the third seed. Agawam didn't play the Spartans this season. But they feature Julie Niznik (17.6), a high scoring sniper and Ashley Palzek (13.6). ELM's front court is strong and an untested quantity against the top two seeds.

Agawam will have a bye in the first round. They'll see action against either Pittsfield (no. 8) or Central (no. 9) on Saturday, February 27th at 7:00 p.m. at Kibbe Gym. They haven't met Pittsfield this year, a member of the Berkshire County North League. Central, who they met and easily beat earlier in the season, is 8-12 in the Valley South.

If the Brownies have one problem to address at times, it's deep in the paint. Longmeadow High beat them because, big as they are, Marisa Mosley went down there and gave all Agawam low-post and set-up people (9 rebounds, 12 points off of them) plenty to think about.

Lancer Coach Wayne Patterson had that game plan. "We felt we could seal them out down there and we did," he said after the upset win.

Minnechaug lost to the Brownies again a few weeks ago because AHS Coach Lou Conte, using his vast experience, knew the much bigger Falcons would work on his team and work them low. So, he switched to a semi-match-up zone that saw his big, experienced kids (Pia Bertone-Gross, Melissa Cote, and Barbara Maloni [playing full bore, as she always does]) deny the dump down low and deny the passing lanes to the Falcons' trees. It worked.

Will it work again? All indications are that the finals will see Agawam and Minnechaug - with Longmeadow (no. 5) perhaps in the mix (if they play well as a dark horse and they will have a battle against number four Westfield and Minnechaug to get to Agawam). But they are a scary team.

SEE TOP SEED - Page 37...

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Senior Night A Blast For AHS Girls' Hoop



AGAWAM HIGH VARSITY GIRLS' HOOP PLAYERS are pictured with their parents during pre-game festivities at the Annual Senior Night last week. Players are (from left) Barbara Maloni, Pia Bertone-Gross, Kara Tierney, and Melissa Cote. Parents in photo from left are Cynthia & Tony Maloni, Pat & Jim Bertone-Gross, Pat & Tom Tierney, and Jackie & Harold Cote. photo by Dave Rollins.



AGAWAM HIGH SENIORS, from left - Melissa Cote, Kara Tierney, Barbara Maloni, and Pia Bertone-Gross before their last regular season home game as Agawam Brownies last week. photo by Dave Rollins.

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Gene Lubarsky And Eric Lubarsky Of Agawam

Brownies Whip West Side On Senior Night Finish At 18-1

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

The Agawam High girls' basketball team wound up another stellar season last Thursday evening after a 52-28 win over visiting West Springfield High.

It was Senior Night and a fitting way to say good-bye to the kids who will hit the bricks when they get their sheepskins next June. That victory gave AHS an 18-1 season record and the top-seed in the Division I tournament. You see, this game gave all of us a chance to enjoy the present club Coach Lou Conte starts and the future club he could very well lead into action next season.

The starters did what they usually do best; get ahead and force the other team out of any viable game plan they might have cooked up for the Brownies.

Indeed, the Terriers went down, 12-4, with 4:06 gone. The architect of the early West Side swoon was senior power forward Melissa Cote, who had eight quick points, mostly from deep in the paint and an occasional pop from up top.

To their credit, the Terriers fought back on 5-9 shooting with 8:50 left to close the gap to 14-10. But it was only a matter of time before Barbara Maloni got in gear. The senior hit a trey and followed up with a deuce. Then, on a nice feed by sophomore Laura Bucalo (part of the future), she canned the bunny to put Agawam up, 23-11.

Stifling Man Defense

Out front, sophomore point guard Jill Gendron and Cote were doubling the dribbler. West Side, barely a shadow of last year's team which beat Agawam in the Western Mass. Division I semi-finals, had no answer for the Brownies' stifling man defense. And even though they were zoned-up for most of the game, that couldn't stop the Agawam offense, either down low or outside. Senior Pia Bertone-Gross showed that with two straight hoops with one minute left.

A Maloni three rounded out the first half scoring as Agawam took a 34-11 lead into the locker room.

Things didn't change much in the second half.

The Brownies continued to make the Terriers run around in circles. Agawam, behind Gendron, Maloni, and senior Kara Tierney, passed with precision over the West Side zone. That kind of play, which sets up the open shot, was showing well for the hosts. With 8:50 left, they were 4-9 from the field as opposed to 1-7 for the visitors.

Then, with 5:07 left, Conte gave us a preview. He sent in sophomore Liz Stieg, junior Sheri Benton, Bucalo, junior Kate Shannon (normally a starter), and junior Jen Lyman. With encouragement from the bench and in the stands, they took it the rest of the way.

West Side tried a press, down 46-23 with 3:16 left. It was like shooting an elephant with a BB gun - not nearly enough fire-power.

Later, Conte, who rung up his 234th career win against 52 losses, wasn't all that happy when it was over. "We have to tighten up our defense a lot," he grumbled.

AGAWAM INDIVIDUAL STATS: Maloni - 19 points (7-15 fgs, two 3's, 3-7 fts, rebounds - 1 off); Cote - 11 points (4-6 fts, 3-4 fts, rebounds - 9, 2 off); Bertone-Gross - 8 points (4-7 fgs, rebounds - 3); Bucalo - 8 points (4-6 fgs, rebounds - 4, 3 off); Tierney - 2 points (1-4 fgs, rebounds - 3, 1 off); Benton - 2 points (1-1 fgs, rebounds - 3); Stieg - 0 points (0-1 fgs); Shannon - 2 points (1-2 fgs, rebounds - 2); Lyman - 0 points (0-1 fgs, rebounds - 2); Gendron - 0 points (0-2 fgs, rebounds - 3, 1 off).

AGAWAM TEAM STATS: Fgs - 12-42, two 3's (28 percent), 2-15 fts (13 percent), rebounds - 17, 11 off, turnovers - 15 points allowed off turnovers, 4.

BROWNIE JV'S: The Agawam JV's beat the West Side kids, 37-36. Keegan Clark had 11 points to lead the way. But Pam Gervais went to the line with 22 seconds left to give the Brownies a 37-35 lead on 1-2 off a 36-55 Agawam advantage. It was enough. The Terriers had a shot with 1.2 left, but a free throw didn't sink on a 1 for 2 situation and it was over. Then the girls of the future went on to seal the victory.

Moore Places Third For Agawam High In State Wrestling

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

Agawam High had a tough time in the State Schoolboy Wrestling Tournament held at Cathedral over this past weekend. They didn't place in the top 10 in Coach Phil Tomkiel's final season.

But they did place Dave Moore (112's) in third place. He whipped Chris Auger of Haverhill, 11-7 in the second round and went on to lose, 11-3 to Luke Vercollone of Silver Lake in the semi's, but beat Scott Cokely of Lexington, 10-6 in the consolation round.

In the 103's, Eric Hogan got to the second round by beating Matt Lawlor of Haverhill before being defeated by Antwan Gonsalves of Cambridge, 16-3. Hogan and Moore were both number three seeds.

In the 145's, Mark Engleman took a third. He decisioned Jim Collins of Waltham, 3-1. To get there, he had to beat Mike Geoffry of Greater Lowell with a pin at 1:01 of the second period.

In the semi's, he lost a close call, 6-4.

In the 152's, Adam Blair (number three) came in fifth. He beat Durfee's Sneaker Landy, 18-6.

Ludlow, which beat the Brownies by a half point in the Western Mass. Tournament, finished 10th in the States. However, their outstanding 125-pounder, Drew Penna, became not only a Western Mass. champ, but a State champion as well, by beating Dan Arone of Waltham, 9-0, in the finals.

TOP SEEDED - from Page 36...

Agawam, no matter what it collectively says, is still angry over the stunning loss to West Side in the semi's last year. This is a time when Agawam, the winners of eight Valley Wheel Champions, three Western Mass. Champs and a State Finalist, with a two-year record of 38-3, could go back to the States. Everything is there. A bit of luck, plus great talent, will do it. This isn't going to be easy. That's why we love Brownie girls' hoop.

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Agawam Hockey vs. West Side...

AHS Hockey Gets Sixth Seed In Div. III Tourney

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

The Agawam High hockey team finished up its regular season last Saturday afternoon, February 20th, with a 7-2 loss to powerful Berry Division foe West Springfield, the two-time defending Western Mass. champs. According to Coach Fran Pycko, he wasn't displeased by the loss.

"Winning and losing are part of athletics. We'll all lose. What I don't like is playing badly. We played well against a very good team."

They certainly did in the first period. The Terriers attacked early behind Tim Moran, Carlo Navone, Mike Garrity, and John Moran. They were met by some great defense on the part of Josh Sprague and keeper Mike Schmidt, who turned away nine Terrier shots in the first. The Brownies managed just one shot.

It was the second 15 minutes that saw West Side rise up after the Brownies drew first blood. The Agawam score came on a slapshot from sophomore Tony LeClair, his 29th of the season, off an assist by Tony Kosinski (his 17th assist). That got West Side's attention. Again they stormed the Brownie goal. Agawam got a reprieve when West Side was called for a penalty at the 12:23 mark. AHS couldn't cash in on the power play.

The Brownies' Brian Gilhooly, LeClair, and Dave Gusek were playing well on the power play, but the Terriers, short-handed, came back. Gusek, Gilhooly, Tony Kosinski, and Josh Sprague countered, but it was the end of the power play. West Side was at full strength with 8:55 to go. Again, Navone and Tom Moran drove into the Agawam zone. Schmidt had another big step.

Good End-To-End Hockey

It was good end-to-end hockey when the Terriers lit the lamp. Dave Borgatti got his ninth goal of the season from Marc Sosen. The Terrier forwards began to control the play. Navone launched one from the right point with 5:26 to go. It hit the right post.

Agawam's Andy Radwanski came back 30 seconds later with a semi-breakaway. West Side goalie Kevin Atkin tracked the play all the way and made a save on a shot not more than 10 feet in front of the crease.

At the 2:57 mark, West Side got goal number two on a flip-in by Dave Roberts off passes from Nate Filip and Borgatti.

The floodgates were open after that. The Terriers scored another in the second to make it 3-1 heading into the third period. Second period saves saw Schmidt with nine and Atkins with six.

West Springfield took the action to the Brownies in the final stanza. They scored four goals (10:20, 7:19, 7:13, 1:50) to put things out of reach. The Brownies did get one more. Tony Kosinski rammed it home from Radwanski at the 22.9 mark.

Third period saves - Schmidt, 8; Atkin, 7. Total shots on goal - West Side, 27; Agawam, 14.

Agawam's final record went to 12-6-2. West Side improved to 10-7-3. Which brings up the Western Mass. hockey playoffs in Division III. Agawam has been seeded number five and West Side, number six. The Brownies will meet number 12 Central (11-5-2) Thursday evening at the Olympia. The two teams didn't meet this year. The Golden Eagles are in the Wright Division (not the strongest). If Agawam gets by them, they'll meet the winner of the Putnam (no. 12, 11-6-1), Longmeadow (no. 4, 10-7-3) preliminary round on Monday, March 1st. Putnam is in the Wright, Longmeadow inhabits the very tough Berry Division.

Tough Journey For The Brownies

It will be a tough journey for the Brownies. The seeds in front of them are Mt. Greylock (no. one), Ludlow (no. two), Minnechaug (no. three), and fourth-seeded Longmeadow. They beat Greylock, 5-4, lost to Ludlow, 9-7, fell to Minnechaug, 10-5, and tied Longmeadow, 4-all. They just might have to meet the second-time Western Mass. champs (West Springfield) at some point in time.

All year long, Agawam has had this problem - the lack of three lines. "We have two good offensive lines and mix and match to get our third," Coach Fran Pycko said at the start of the year.

Be that as it may, the Brownies, out of all the teams in Western Mass., are third in scoring with 101 goals. Only Ludlow (119) and Easthampton (112) are ahead of them. Their offense will come from LeClair (28 goals/15 assists); Dave Gusek (18 goals/17 assists); Andy Radwanski (12 goals/20 assists), and Tony Kosinski (9 goals/16 assists).

Agawam will have to play level-headed hockey hockey and not let their aggressiveness get the better of them. They can't afford penalties.



AGAWAM HIGH 1998-1999 hockey captains Josh Sprague and Andy Radwanski and Coach Fran Pycko, Assistant Coach Bryan Hollister, and Assistant Coach John Cirelli are hoping for a strong finish this season in the upcoming WMass Division III Tournament. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

AHS Swimmers At Western Mass. Meet



AGAWAM HIGH boys' swimmers placed tied for 13th at last weekend's Western Mass. Tournament. All-Western Mass. swimmer Brendan Kilrain won the 50-yard free and was third in the breaststroke. IN PHOTO ABOVE, pictured with Coach Kim Scofield and Coach Kevin Smith are team members Matthew Francis, Nathan Adamski, and Brian Borkosky.

Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



AHS SWIM COACH
Kim Scofield and
Coach Kevin Smith
are pictured with
team captains Brenna
McGinn and Shaugh-
nessy Egan finished
the 1998-1999 season
at the Annual Wes-
tern Mass. Swim Meet
held last weekend. Ad-
vertiser News photo by Jack
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Weight Room Gets Facelift At Agawam High

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

Agawam High School has something many schools in the area either have or are contemplating — a bona fide weight and workout program to benefit both athletes and the student body in general. It is the brainchild of Agawam assistant freshman football Coach Chris Benjamin. Benjamin graduated from Agawam High in 1994 and graduated from Springfield College last year. His degree was in psychology and health fitness.

"We started the program the week of December 1st of last year," he noted. Benjamin explained that Athletic Director Kathy McSweeney, who is always on the lookout for programs to enhance her department, was receptive to the idea.

"Yeah," smiled McSweeney, who is no stranger to the workout facilities at the High School. "It's a good thing for us to have and Chris is doing a great job with it."

Benjamin's rationale behind the weight club was pretty straightforward. "To have a strong athletic program in any sport, you have to have a year-round commitment to getting in the best shape you can possibly be," he explained, then added, "When I was in high school, we didn't have any weight or workout training. We had talent, just like the kids currently at Agawam have. You have to enhance that talent so you don't spend half of your pre-season getting in shape because the idea is to be in shape from day one."

He noted that some high schools, like Cathedral, Longmeadow, and Northampton, have weight programs and they are usually very good or at least competitive in all of their athletic endeavors.

Springfield College Donated Equipment...

The weight room, which was badly in need of some tender loving care, received it in the form of donated equipment from Springfield College.

"The strength and conditioning coach there, Dr. Margaret Jones, helped out. We got free weights, some dumbbells, and a couple more exercise bikes," Benjamin said.

He noted that two inclined weight platforms were built to utilize the free weights along with bumper plates for the free weight bar. They also bought six medicine balls. Add those new features to the Nautilus machines and other equipment, which were already in place, and you have what Benjamin calls motivation for using the facilities.

Currently, there are about 42 people (student-athletes, students, and some teachers) in the weight room, 20 of whom show up on a daily basis (after school) to get in their workout. "We also have agility drills on Mondays and Fridays and usually get in a game or two of volleyball after our workouts, which last about an hour, are done," Benjamin said.

Benjamin is uniquely qualified to oversee the program, having recently gotten his CSCS certificate (which means he's a certified strength and conditioning specialist). "I'm able to guide the people through their workouts. And I have a good knowledge of just what types of exercise people have to do to get themselves in the best shape possible."

"It's Not Going To Happen Overnight..."

He did stress one thing, however. "It's not going to happen overnight. We make it enjoyable to work out in a comfortable group setting where just about everyone knows everyone else. But you have to sweat a little to see results."

Benjamin has plenty of good help. His brother, John, who coaches the Agawam High football defensive and offensive lines, is there. Also involved are Dan Pryce, an AHS assistant football coach with experience in conditioning and training programs, and Joe Bianca, an assistant coach for the freshman team.

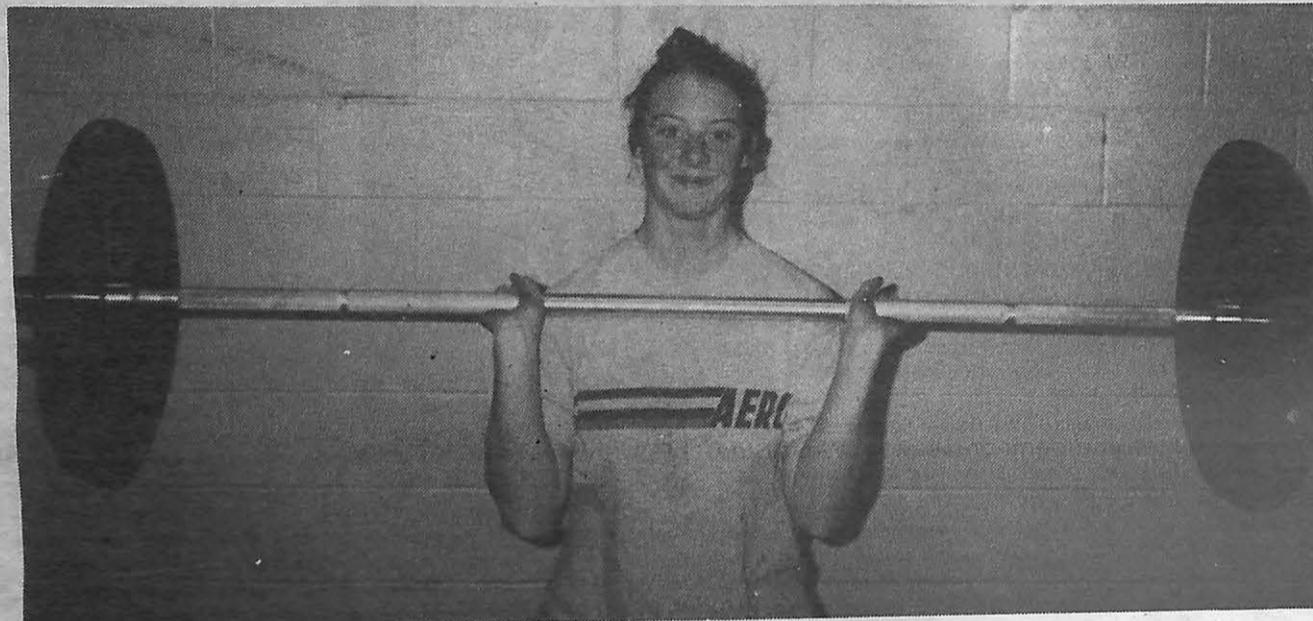
"We're all there most of the time, so people get plenty of attention," Benjamin smiled. He also noted that they try to keep track of how the kids involved are doing in school. "We want them to keep their grades up and will make an effort to that end."

Of course, there is always the bottom line. "We've been very fortunate in that department. Besides the donated stuff, Ms. McSweeney has given some money from the Powerade machine between the two gyms, which is set up to provide funds for non-budgeted school programs. Also, money has come from a fund set up by Coach (Kirk) Parker and former football assistant Coach Bill Haig," he noted.

But, Benjamin pointed out that money is always needed to keep up the quality of the weight and conditioning program.



AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL WEIGHT ROOM COACHES Chris Benjamin (left) and Joe Bianca look over the schedule for the improved weight room at Agawam High School. photo by Dave Rollins.



AGAWAM HIGH SOCCER STAR GINA LOUDFOOT, a junior, has been hitting the weights this winter to prepare for the upcoming spring track season for the Brownies. photo by Dave Rollins.

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The Weight Room Is "Working Out" At AHS...



THE WEIGHT ROOM at Agawam High School is currently being used by 42 people, including student-athletes, students, and some teachers. photo by Dave Rollins.



FOOTBALL PLAYER VICTOR ROMANO keeps in shape by lifting dumbbells in Agawam High School's improved weight room. photo by Dave Rollins.

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WEIGHT ROOM COACH Chris Benjamin (far right) gives a tour of Agawam High's improved weight room to a group of AHS students. photo by Dave Rollins.

Remember, our deadline is each Tuesday afternoon at 12:00 noon; however, we appreciate any articles, press releases, etc., that can be brought in on Mondays. Thank you ... AAN!!!

Registration Slated For Upcoming Boys' Lacrosse Clinic

For the second year, the Agawam Boys' High School Lacrosse Booster Club, in cooperation with the Agawam Recreation Department and the Agawam Youth Lacrosse Association, will sponsor a Boys' Lacrosse Clinic on March 8th, 9th, and 10th for boys in grades five through eight.

Registration will take place at 5:30 p.m. on March 8th in the Agawam High School gymnasium. The cost of the entire clinic will be \$20. Own stick is required.

Fundamentals in throwing, catching, shooting, cradling, and game play will be taught by Agawam High School Varsity Coach Nick St. George, former Longmeadow High School star Kevin Quinn, and former Springfield College star and City Councilor Bob Young. In addition, guest appearances from area college and high school coaches are planned.

For more information, contact Bob Young at 786-8995 or the Recreation Office at 821-0514.

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Profile...

Senior Jay Flood Is A Three-Season Athlete For The Agawam High Brownies

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

Jay Flood is another student athlete at Agawam High School who plays a sport in every season, including the boys' varsity ski team.

Recently he took some time out to talk about his days at Agawam High. He's 17 years-old with a birthday coming up August 12th. Jay stands 5'10" and weighs 140 pounds. He has spent all four years of his secondary education as a Brownie.

Currently, his course load includes AP physics, AP English, calculus, and U.S. history. Jay is also a two-year member of the National Honor Society, a member of the Renaissance Club, and the Math Club.



AHS SENIOR JAY FLOOD

Freshman Basketball...



COACH GUIDO WINTER with the captains of the Agawam High School boys' freshman basketball team (from left to right): Mike Carmody, John Lynch, and Jeff Burger. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

His favorite course is physics and like so many students at the High School, physics instructor Arthur Gage is his top teacher. "I know why I like him (Gage). He just makes learning enjoyable," Jay said.

Jay has a lot of colleges in mind - UMass, Boston University, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Rensselaer Poly Tech, the University of Pittsburgh, and the University of Hartford. He wants to be an engineer and has already been accepted to Pittsburgh and Hartford.

Jay plays soccer in the fall and participates in track (long jump, triple jump) when the spring rolls around. He has no favorite sport, but puts it like this: "My favorite is whatever one I happen to be involved in at the time."

His best schoolboy sports memory came as a sophomore. "That had to be when our soccer team went to the Western Mass. finals against Cathedral." His take on this year's skiing team: "We lost some important players, but still did well. There were no expectations for us. We just went out and skied." The Brownies finished fourth in Western Mass.

The Best Things In Life Are Free

His favorite food is a pizza from Papa Gino's. "I work there and get my dinner for free," he smiled.

The car he'd like to tool around town in is a 1967 Mustang. "A girl I know owns one and it's nice to ride in it," he noted.

Herman Maier, the great Austrian skier, is his top athlete.

He likes to get away from things by hanging out in his room.

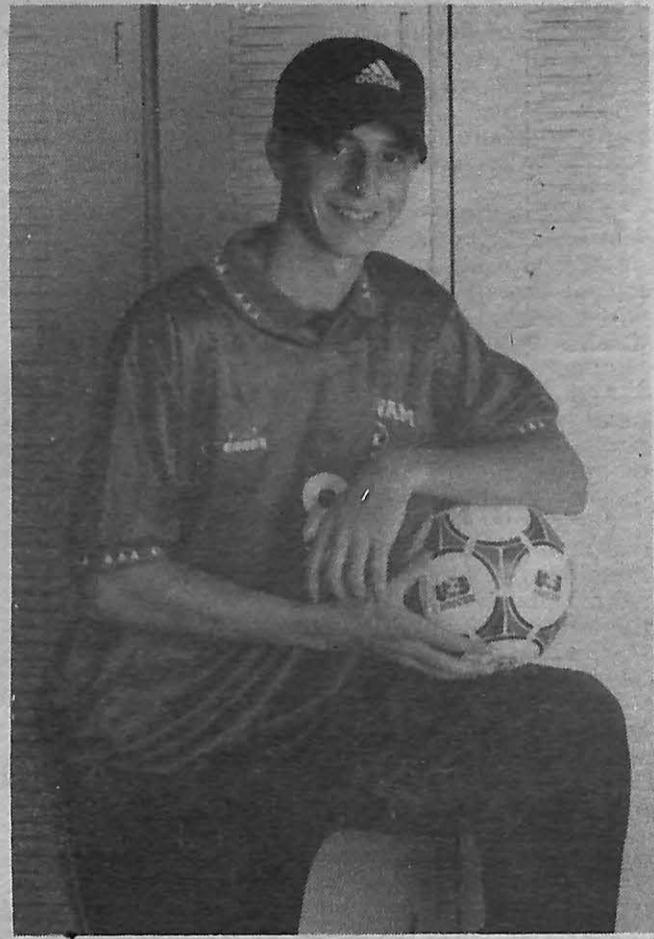
His clothes? "Anything from American Eagle," he said.

Jay likes any kind of music except for country. "I also definitely don't like Celine Dion," he admitted. "Ever Clear" is his top group.

The "X-Files" tops the tube for him. "Varsity Blues" is his favorite flick.

His mom's name is Lois. His dad is James. Jay has a brother, Jim (20), who attends Holyoke Community College.

He looks up to his dad. "He has given me a lot of good advice over the years."



JAY FLOOD in his soccer regalia.

His days at AHS are coming to an end. "I'd like to be remembered as the one who tried the best at everything I tried," he said.

Coach Glenn Olson had this to say about Jay: "He was always our anchor and a very well-rounded kid. He had a genuine concern for everyone on our team."

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In Tri-Parish Bowling...

Fordham Increases Its First-Place Lead In Round Three Action

After taking the first-place spot in round three of the Tri-Parish Bowling League on Monday, February 8th, Fordham (10-2) managed to increase its margin of victory over the competition on Monday, February 15th (Presidents' Day). This team currently sits atop of the rest of the league with a "comfortable" 2½-game lead, although things can change pretty fast week in and week out when the Tri-Parish rollers put their talent (and pride) to the test.

As far as the rest of the standings go, St. Louis and Holy Cross are still tied for second at 7.5-4.5 apiece, and St. Anselm's and Georgetown have locked horns with identical records of 7-5. Meanwhile, Boston College is presently in sixth place (6.5-5.5), followed closely by St. Mary's (5.5-6.5), St. Michael's (5-7), and Catholic University (4-8).

And then there's Notre Dame, which is now dead last with 0 wins and 12 losses. When the competition was over on Presidents' Day, the poor ol' players on this team must have felt as though they were being impeached.

Without further ado, here are the results of the matches from the third Monday in February: St. Anselm's completely creamed the just-mentioned Notre Dame, 4-0; Fordham defeated St. Louis, 3-1; Boston College dominated Holy Cross, 3-1; St. Mary's bashed Georgetown, 3-1; and St. Michael's had no trouble with Catholic University, 4-0.

BILL "Not Black And Blue" GRAY was once again the men's leader, courtesy of his 128 single string and 349 triple string. However, GLENN "Not Sam" ADAMS came in a not-too-shabby second with his 128 single and 344 triple.

Impressive performances were also turned in by "Jolly" OLLY MULDREW (116, 341), RON "The Don" MENARD (123, 340), "Luscious" LOU MULDREW (114, 337), JIM "On The Lamb" LAMBERT (118, 334), and ROGER "Rabbit" JOSEPHSON (106, 296).

In the women's rankings, there was a new face in the top spot on this particular night — CORI "Not Lori" NAPOLITAN, who rolled a 139 single string and a 352 triple string. Coming in second was "Testy" BETSY CANNON (113 single, 333 triple), followed by "The Mighty" (or "The Usually Mighty") DEB POIRIER (110, 324).

"Juicy" LUCY MENARD (109, 303) also rolled well on the 15th of February, as did BARBARA "Barb Wire" HOWARD (113, 300), "Go With The" FLO ROCHFORD (103, 300), and JAN "Not The Man" FULLER (104, 298).

Meeting And Tryouts Slated For Agawam Youth Cheerleaders

Agawam Youth Cheerleaders will hold tryouts and registration for the 1999 cheerleading season at the Agawam Middle School on the following days:

Monday, March 22nd, 5:00-7:00 p.m.; Tuesday, March 23rd, 5:00-7:00 p.m.; Wednesday, March 24th, 5:00-7:00 p.m.; and Thursday, March 25th (tryouts), 5:00-7:00 p.m. (juniors), 7:00-9:00 p.m. (seniors).

All children who are entering grades five and six in September 1999 are eligible for the Junior Squad. All children who are entering grades seven and eight in September 1999 are eligible for the Senior Squad.

Pee Wees (grades three & four in Sept. 1999) will be determined by the number of applicants.

An informational meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 3rd at the Agawam Public Library at 6:30 p.m.

For more information, please call Sue Svadba at 786-2592 or Irene Lemieux at 789-3071.

* * *

Our deadline is each Tuesday at 12 noon; however, we appreciate any articles, press releases, etc., that can be brought in on Mondays.

* * *



Outdoors New England

by Kent Servis
Outdoor Writer

FREE FISHING SEMINAR

The Pioneer Valley Boat and Surf Club will host a seminar on striped bass at their March 2nd meeting. The 7:30 p.m. meeting will be held at the Agawam Sportman's Club on Corey Street in Agawam.

The featured speaker will be Agawam's own Al Gag of television and lure-making fame. There will also be a raffle to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Non-members are invited to attend and there is no admission charge.

For additional information, contact Dave Casinchingino at 789-1505.

COD TRIP POSTPONED

The unseasonably warm winter must have cured some of the cabin fever that usually reaches a peak this time of year. Reader interest in an organized cod fishing trip did not materialize this year.

There was not enough interest in the March trip to warrant reserving a boat this time around.

I will announce in the column some of the cod trips that I will be going on in late March/April. Reservations on the party boat will be up to the individuals that want to go.

I am considering one of the marathon trips that leave at 2:00 a.m. and return late in the afternoon. I will post the date and availability in a future column.

SPRINGFIELD SPORTSMAN'S SHOW A HIT

The annual Springfield Sportsman's Show at the Big E in West Springfield was a big hit with the showgoers this year. Approximately 70,000 sportsmen took advantage of the show to attend seminars by noted outdoor experts and live demonstrations.

The Retriever Pool at the Young Building was a busy place as Dave Krasler of Citari Kennels conducted numerous demonstrations of his prized springer spaniels and others.

Capt. Bill Brown of Billfish Charters put on tuna fishing demonstrations, using a live scuba fish. Audience members got a chance to land a 200-pound skin diver using stand-up tackle.

Using the proper equipment and techniques, a rather petite young lady was able to "land" the diver that her husky male companion (left to his own devices) could not.

Fly fishing demonstrations and lessons at the casting pool in the Better Living Center provided some good instruction and entertainment.

Kent Servis' column is a regular feature of The AAN...

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Famed fishing guide Andy Raio, one of the Lowrance Electronics pro staffers, was on hand to explain all the latest fish-finding and GPS electronics to a constant crowd of people. If you want to try fishing Maine this year for trophy smallmouth or stripers, give Andy a call at (207) 727-3215 and book a trip. You can trust me that you won't be disappointed.

The four-day show was a big success for patrons as well as exhibitors as trips were booked for everything from wild boar hunts to offshore tuna charters and everything else in-between.

Hats off to Frank and Doug Sousa and the Outdoor Sports Expo Group for a great show!

IT'S JUST AROUND THE CORNER

The Sportsman's Show is the turning point for a lot of us. The late February show is a reminder that SPRING is just around the corner!

Don't wait for the last minute to buy your license and get your tackle in shape for open water. Thames River stripers are already hitting off the Norwich town docks and at the power plant in Montville. White perch are in at Hamburg Cove and at Wethersfield Cove off the Connecticut River.

The former Elm Bait and Tackle in Enfield is now BG's Pro Tackle. They will be stocked to the roof with everything the angler needs. They will be specializing in gear for the Connecticut River striped bass, trout season, salt water, and of course, the main attraction of bass fishing!

Realizing that people often do wait until the last minute, they will be open 24 hours the day before the opening of Connecticut's fishing season. Both resident and non-resident licenses are available seven days a week from 5:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and a pro fisherman will be on duty at all times to share information and help you select the proper equipment for your fishing adventures.

Everything from worms, crawlers and shiners, to frozen salt water bait will be available.

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL BAIT AND TACKLE SHOPS

The advent of the giant retailers that sell fishing tackle has led to the demise of many long-established sports shops. As the attraction of saving a few cents brought customers to the giants, the long-established local shops went down; one after another.

We paid a high price for the few bucks we may have saved. Try to find shiners or worms on the way to your favorite lake or stream. Try to buy that license you forgot to get at 6:00 in the morning. Or worse yet, try to find a sales clerk that even has a rudimentary understanding of the sport and can help you make an intelligent purchase.

This is not to say that none of the large retailers have knowledgeable sales staffs. I know several very knowledgeable people who work in these giant conglomerates, but they are the exception rather than the rule.

The novice, especially, is much better off selecting his or her equipment from an experienced hunter or fisherman in a smaller shop. They can give advice and pointers that go beyond, "Look in aisle 3 ... that's where the trout stuff is."

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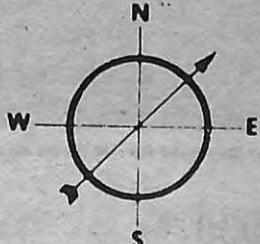
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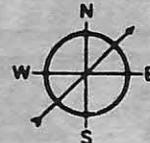
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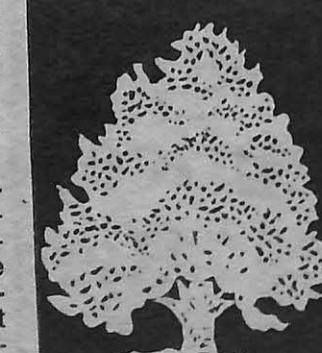
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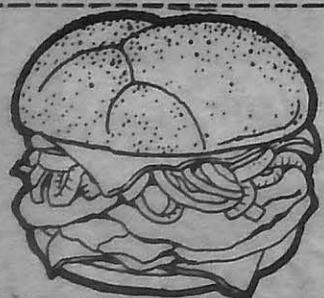
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